THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER.

WE THANK the Bengal Government for a copy of its Resolution on the general administration of the Chota Nagpore Division for the year 1881-82. The Resolution thus notices the material condition of the people:

The general prosperity noticed last year has continued throughout the period under review, and the favourable harvests are said to have led in most parts of the division to the adoption of a higher standard of comfort. Of the Kols of Lohardugga the Deputy Commissioner writes:—

"The true test of the Kols is afforded by watching the tide of emigration, examining the excise revenue, and ascertaining the demand for copper coin.

"In the past year emigration was slack, excise revenue good, and the demand for copper coins moderate, all indicating that there was no pressure on the general community."

In Ranchi it is said that "nearly all classes are ready to build superior dwellings if only sites were available." In Palamow "substantial tiled-roof houses are springing up everywhere, and the people are supplementing their earthen pots and pans by metal ones," and the increased demand is said to have led to a rise in the prices of the cloth and metal-ware sold at the Daltongunge fair. It is creditable to the officers of Government that this improvement in the standard of comfort is said to be especially noticeable in pergunnah Palamow, where the land is either the property of Government or is under the care of the Court of Wards. The superiority of the Christian villages in neatness, cleanliness and general appearance is noticeable.

This is highly satisfactory.

THE ACCOUNT of emigration from each district of the Division for the last five years is compared in the following table:—

	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82
H...aribagh ...	6,952	2,819	1,738	2,809
Lohardugga ...	10,021	6,888	1,885	2,766
Singhbhoom ...	324	938	609	896
Manbhoom ...	1,799	3,170	1,502	1,285
Total ...	19,096	13,815	5,734	7,756

It would appear from these figures that it was in Manbhoom alone, where the harvests were exceptionally rich, that the general prosperity was sufficient to counteract the effect of the greatly increased demand for labour caused by the revived prospects of the tea industry.

REFERRING to the working of the Emigration Law in the Chota Nagpore Division the Lieutenant-Governor remarks:

As the new Act has only been in force for a short time, and as the Commissioner has stated in a separate communication that he is about to submit a general report on the working of the law, the Lieutenant-Governor does not propose to go into the subject at length on the present occasion. It may, however, be observed, with regard to the abuse said to be most rife, namely, the abduction of women for the purpose of being despatched to Assam as free labourers, that the law as to free emigration has not been altered in any material particular by Act I of 1882, and that free emigration was as lawful under the old law as it is at present. The apparent remedy for abuses of this nature is increased vigilance on the part of the magisterial officers and the police. Condign punishment, promptly inflicted on one or two offenders, would probably be effectual in checking malpractices. The evil referred to in paragraph 35, of registering coolies at a distance from the place of recruitment, requires attention. It is certainly against the intention of the Act, and could be remedied apparently by establishing a registering office in Palamow.

We hope the general report promised will be published for general information.

THE LAC-DYE INDUSTRY in the Lohardugga district we are sorry to read is declining, and the Deputy Commissioner reports that "the Ranchi Lac Company have for some months been running the dye off into the fields; it does not pay the cost of manufacture having been completely supplanted in the market by aniline dyes. It was not a prosperous season with the Company; though the raw article, stick-lac, was cheap and plentiful, prices of shell-lac fell in a corresponding ratio."

THE STATE of the Police in the Chota Nagpore Division, says the Lieutenant-Governor, is discreditable. Exclusive of Lohardugga, for which no statistics are furnished, it appears that out of a total of 926 policemen of various grades employed in the division, 186 or 19·19 per cent. were punished either judicially or departmentally—a state of things attributed mainly to the want of good under-officers who seem to be scarcely procurable.

IT IS satisfactory to note that the public Committees in such a backward part of the country as the Chota Nagpore Division are working well. The Commissioner writes:

"The members of the Committees in Manbhoom are said to take a lively interest in their proceedings, and the Deputy Commissioner considers that these Committees are useful in auditing accounts and discussing questions of general policy. In Lohardugga the Deputy Commissioner reports that individual members take an interest in matters which affect themselves directly, European members, for instance, of the Road Cess Committee, are keen in having communications opened along lines which tap their properties, but they do not seem to show much public spirit. In Singhbhoom the native members are reported to take no real interest in the matters brought before them; they merely attend meetings out of respect and deference for the district officials. The work of the Education Committees seems to have been practically confined to the supervision of zillah schools. The Market Committee at Purulia has been reported to be doing much towards improving the management of the municipal market. The continued success of the market is said to be owing to the care and watchfulness against abuses of the members of the Committees."

TUESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER.

WITH REFERENCE to the Railway Conference at Simla we have received a paper submitted by some native gentlemen containing the following suggestions:

(1.) That one intermediate class carriage at least, be attached to every Mail and Mixed passenger train, whilst for local trains two compartments be marked off as "intermediate class" in the third class carriage.

(2.) That repp cushioned benches and water closets be provided in each compartment of the intermediate class.

(3.) That tickets for this class be issued, not in the same place where 3rd class tickets, but where 1st and 2nd class, tickets are issued; and that the entrance to, and exit from the platforms be through the same door or way as is allowed for latter class of passengers.

(4.) That native gentlemen holding 1st, 2nd or intermediate class tickets, be freely admitted to waiting rooms for "gentlemen."

(5.) That because the 3rd class fare per mile has now been reduced from 3 to 2¼ pies per mile on all the Railways, the intermediate class fare be also proportionally reduced say to 4 pies per mile, as is done in the S. P. & D. Railway, and return tickets issued on all the Railways at a reduction of 2-3rd fare for double journey, as is done on the E. I. Railways, whilst monthly return tickets be granted on one fare and a half.

With regard to third class carriages the following suggestions are submitted:

(1.) That the maximum number of passengers in each compartment be reduced from 10 to 6 in the hot, and to 8 in the cold weather, and the company's servants enjoined not to let in passengers than the number so fixed.

(2) That admission to platforms be accorded more freely to natives than hitherto by issuing platform passes as is done in the Malwa Rajputana Railway. The existing system of leaving it to the discretion of company's servants to allow natives admissions to the platforms, or not gives rise to extortion and oppression on the part of the Police and the lower Railway officials.

(3.) That 3rd class tickets be vended in the Bazars on the occasion of great fairs when there is a rush of traffic.

(4.) That two water-closets at least be provided in every third class carriage.

(5.) That the time of notice for reserved accomodation be reduced from 48 or 24, to 6-8 hours.

(6.) That Waiting rooms for native ladies, and female ticket collectors be attached to all the larger stations, as is done on the Oudh and Rohil Khand Railway.

THE RAJA of Mahmudabad, in the Sitapore District, Oudh, has remitted one lakh of rupees to his tenants out of the balance of rent standing against them.

THE GREAT French railway companies have for some time employed women as ticket and audit clerks, as also have the Credit Foncier and several banks and public companies in France. The Corporation of the City of Paris intend to employ women in their offices, and 300 situations are offered to the fair sex.

A GAZETTE OF INDIA Resolution directs that any person making a claim for a lost or destroyed stock note should at once produce before the district officer all the evidence he can of the loss, and the note must be absolutely identified. If the district officer entertains the application he may forward it to the Comptroller General, and the latter may then direct that the loss of the note be duly advertised, and that after two years its value may be paid.

A CONTEMPORARY announces that owing presumably to the heavy expenditure which the Government of India has to incur on account of its share in the cost of the Egyptian war, all projects for important public works which have already been approved by the local Governments, are likely to be put off, with the exception of those which are considered very urgent. Is this the gain to India from the Egyptian war?

A SOCIETY has been formed, says the *Athenæum*, to publish a quarterly work devoted to the costumes of all nations and peoples.

AN INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF BEAUTY was held at Buda-Pesth, at which 150 ladies presented themselves as competitors and filed past the jury, a committee of Municipal Councillors. Prizes or certificates were awarded to the ten who were judged to be most beautiful. The prize, a diamond bracelet, was awarded to the daughter of a Hungarian civil servant, Cornelia Szekely, who is described as being remarkably beautiful, with an ideally perfect Grecian profile. It is intended that the proud owner of the bracelet shall be photographed and that her likeness shall be sent to every illustrated paper in the world for reproduction.

SOME OFFICIAL statistics have just been issued in France of the suicides that have taken place in 50 years. They show that since 1830 the number of suicides has trebled. In 1830 there were five suicides for every 100,000 inhabitants; in 1850, 10; in 1860, 11; in 1870, 13; in 1880, 15. The total of suicides in the last year reached 6,650, of whom 79 per cent. were men. A painful fact is the growing frequency of suicides among children. Between 1876 and 1880, 198 boys and 40 girls below 15 years of age destroyed themselves. Of these 209 were over 12 years of age; 21 were between the ages of 12 and 10; four were ten years old; and six were below nine, the younest being only seven years old. It appears that by far the greatest number of suicides take place in the summer, the proportions per cent. being:—Summer, 39; spring, 19; autumn, 24; and winter, 18.

WEDNESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER.

THE CASE of the school-boys of Mymensing, who were thrashed by the servants of Mr Kallanon and Raja Surjikanta Acharji Chowdry is dragging its slow length along in the Magistrate's Court. The *East* notices the following incident:

As the case was being heard by the Mgistrate, one of the student-defendants felt thirsty, and leave was asked to allow him to go out of the court-house to drink a glass of water. But this was denied.

We can hardly believe this. Was the poor boy actually denied water?

AT A RECENT examination for clerkships in the London Post Office, there were 1,500 female candidates, and *Truth* wants to know why women are not paid in the same ratio as men for doing the same work, and after having passed an examination in which men and women compete. Simply because the women compose the weaker sex.

THE DEATH is announced of Professor Leith Adams, the author of "Wanderings of a Naturalist in India," the "Western Himalayas and Cashmere," "Notes of a Naturalist in the Nile Valley, and Malta," and many other works of scientific interest.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following *communique* from the Press Commissioner's office:

Numurous references are being made to the Home Department asking for explanation on points in connection with the system of competitive examination for clerkships on which the Resolution of the 12th August 1882 is perfectly clear. No answers can be given to such applications. It may, however, be noted that the age limitations and other requirements under paragraphs 7, 8 and 11 apply to the case of all candidates whose position is not regulated by paragraph 12. Paragraph 12 only applies to clerks in the offices described in paragraph 16. Complete lists of those offices will be published hereafter, if it is found necessary to make any additions to those already specifically named in paragraph 16. Binomial Theorem is *included* in the subjects of examination in Algebra. Information as to the subjects of examination to be fixed by the different Departments of the Government of India under paragraph 6 will shortly be published.

AT THE last sitting of the Education Commission, at Puna, Professor Bhundarkar introduced a deputation of Shastries, who presented a petition praying that the Sanskrit College, originally started by Mountstuart Elphinstone, and subsequently abolished, should be restored for the encouragement of Sanskrit

literature, which was otherwise in danger of decay. The President promised on behalf of the Commission that the petition should have careful consideration.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to a Madras paper attributing the Salem riots to the neglect of Government officers to learn Hindustani, "the language of the Mahomedans." The correspondent argues that "if the Collector of Salem could have spoken to the Mahomedans in their own language, instead of through a native interpreter when they decided so unwisely to build their mosque in the midst of a very crowded Hindu locality, he would doubtless have prevailed upon them to select a more suitable site, and thus have prevented the provocation which led to the recent disastrous religious riots. The Mahomedans were very much to blame for insisting upon building their mosque in so very unsuitable a spot, and the Collector was much more in fault for consenting to the dangerous step." The correspondent adds that out of 166 *actual rulers* of the Madras Presidency only ten are supposed capable of conversing with the Mahomedans in their mother tongue!

THURSDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER.

THE RUMOUR that a portion of Tipperah, Mymensing and Sylhet would be detached from their present districts and formed into a new district and annexed to Assam has thrown the people of Tipperah into great consternation. A correspondent writes—"Tipperah once formed a part of the Dacca Division and included Noakhally. It was at an unfortunate moment transferred from an advanced division and annexed to a backward one—Chittagong. Now, the best portion of Tipperah is proposed to be incorporated with a non-regulation province. If the Government be determined upon forming a new district by clipping bits from Tipperah, Mymensing and Sylhet, let them do so, but let the new district form a part of Bengal. The contemplated measure would be a retrograde move."

WE LEARN from a correspondent that a native cricket club has been established at Amritsar under the leadership of Bassant Sing. The club is composed of players, most of whom are students of the local Government and Mission schools. The Club sent a challenge to the second battalion Liverpool Regiment, the challenge was accepted and a match played on the 16th instant. The play commenced at 8 A. M. In the running the soldiers made 49 runs and in the second 32, the score of the club was 81 runs in the first running and the club did not make a second attempt. The soldiers thus lost the day and there was loud cheering from the spectators.

WE TAKE the following para from the *Indo-European Correspondence* :

A league of revolutionary women is, according to report, about to be formed in France. The notorious Louise Michel is its most ardent promoter. She is unfortunately backed by men who hold official posts under the French Government. A characteristic feature of this horrible association is the suppression of maternal duties in the homestead. Louise considers the care which children require as the cause of a loss of time which may be better employed by the fair sex in attending to politics. Were these wild views listened to by the most fanatic communists alone, they would have less chance of gaining influence, but several members of the *Conseil Municipal*, it is said, favour Louise Michel, and the revival of the Commune would enlist their open sympathies for its cause.

This is Progress with a vengeance!

THE SAME PAPER has the following :

A congress of Freethinkers was lately held in Paris for the purpose of concerting a definite course of action against all religious teaching. The programme adopted at the meeting may be summed up as follows, as far as France is concerned :—

1*st*.—Suppression of all religious endowments ;
2*nd*.—Abolition of religious orders.
3*rd*.—Confiscation of all church and monastic property;
4*th*.—Suppression of marriage as an institution ;
5*th*.—Prevention of Priestly ministrations in the family.

WE CONGRATULATE Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea on his appointment as an Honorary Magistrate of Calcutta. The appointment is a just compliment to devoted public spirit.

MR. GRANT DUFF thus held forth at Madura on the subject of local self-government :

I am glad to observe that you are prepared to face the responsibilities as well as to enjoy the privileges of local self-government. If only we can succeed in establishing it on a firm basis, it will, besides producing other good effects, disburthen the Central Government of much business that is better suited for settlement by those who are in immediate contract with the facts. Many things come before the Government of Madras about which it need never hear a word, and although so much has been talked of late years about decentralization, many very small matters cannot be settled even by the Government of Madras, but must go to the Government of India. It certainly does seem anomalous that questions about trifles in Tinnevelly should have to be decided on the frontiers of Thibet, and a fresh impulse having been given by Lord Ripon and others to decentralization, all that *will gradually get better.*

AT TINNEVELLY Mr. Grant Duff made the following remarks on the dancing girl question :

As to the dancing girl question, that belongs to the general legislation of India which is the province of the Legislative Council of the Viceroy, not of that of Madras. I cannot suppose, however, that the able men who framed the Penal Code, did not thoroughly inform themselves as to Hindu feelings and opinions on the delicate subject to which you allude. The clause has been long on the Statute-book, and the Penal Code has quite recently been revised. Surely if not in accordance with the sentiments of the bulk of people, it would have been modified.

FRIDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER.

FROM THE weather and crop reports from the different districts of Bengal during the week ending the 23rd September, published in the last *Calcutta Gazette*, we glean the following : In all the districts of the Burdwan, Presidency and Rajshye divisions except Howrah and Khoolna there is a general cry of want of rain, and more rain is urgently needed for the winter crops. In the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions the prospects are much better. In Behar there is the same complaint of deficient rain-fall. In the Orissa and Chota-Nagpore divisions the outlook is more cheering. There is not much sickness any-where except a little fever here and there.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a copy of a petition signed by more than one thousand rate-payers of Utturpara to the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor praying for the concession of the elective system to their municipality. In this petition they lay particular stress on the fact that Utterpara is a first class municipality. From the circumstance of the long standing of the municipality the people have become accustomed to municipal business ; the late visit of Sir Ashley Eden to Utturpara has healed up all party feeling, and the successful management of the Municipality shews that the people there are ripe for self-government. We heartily second the prayer of the petitioners.

WE HAVE received a copy of the representation, which the "North Bengal Union" of this city have addressed Mr. Croft as Chairman of the Bengal Provincial Committee of the Education Commission. They offer several suggestions a few of which we notice below. They suggest that a definite and reasonable proportion of the sum devoted to mass education should be set apart for female education ; that a sufficiently large number of schools and colleges should be established for female education and a special college for training ladies for the B. A. Examination at Dacca ; that girls schools should receive in no case Government aid less than half the cost of maintenance.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL in the Public Works Department has answered the memorial of the inhabitants of Baraset in which they protested against the site selected for the Railway station of that place. The Government says that the memorial was referred to the Agent and Chief Engineer of the Central Bengal Railway who says that the plan of the memorialists is not correct—the site petitioned for is in juxta-position to that selected, being only separated from each other by a road, secondly the building of the proposed station is so far advanced that it cannot be abandoned except at a great loss to the Company. Under the circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor is unable to interfere. The petitioners on the other hand state that the distance between the selected and the proposed sites is about a mile, that with regard to the progress of the building they had telegraphed their prayer to stop further work when the works had made little progress, that even if the works be abandoned the loss will be more than made up by the saving of the cost of constructing the feeder road, which will not be necessary, if the station be removed to the site prayed for.

WE HAVE received a lengthy communication advocating the increase of the salaries of the Head Clerks of the Moffusil Small Cause Courts, especially those of Howrah and Sealdah. The writer lays much stress upon the nature and amount of work done by these clerks and the heavy responsibility which devolves upon them. They are like those of Registrars of other higher courts and of a quasi judicial nature. While they are so there is a considerable saving from the receipts of those courts, which amounts to three laks of rupees. The saving per annum from the Howrah and Sealdah Courts taken together amounts to Rs. 28,000 per annum. Our correspondent recommends that the salaries of these clerks ought to be fixed at Rs. 280. We are of opinion that the reasons urged are both cogent and just and that the recommendations of our correspondent deserve to be complied with.

WE HAVE much pleasure in reproducing the following from a Resolution of the Government of India on the use of hand-cuffs :

It is found on an examination of the replies furnished by the several Local Governments and administrations that considerable differences of practice prevail in the several provinces in respect of the imposition of hand-cuffs on accused, but unconvicted persons in the custody of the police. The rules appear also to be in some instances unnecessarily harsh and open to abuse by the inferior grades of the police. The Governor-General in Council does not propose to lay down any precise direction in supersession of any rules now locally in force, but desires that all Local Governments and administrations will see that it is clearly provided that hand-cuffs shall only be imposed on unconvicted persons when from the heinous nature of the crime or the character or behaviour of the accused, a fair presumption arises that such restraint is necessary to prevent escape or violence. His Excellency in Council considers that the use of hand cuffs ordinarily and unnecessarily by inferior police officers should be discouraged.

All honor to Lord Ripon!

SATURDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER.

THERE WERE 219 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending the 23rd instant of which 7 were from cholera, none from small-pox, 60 from fevers, 25 from bowel-complaints, 7 from accidents and suicide, 14 from asthma and pthisis, 30 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Eleven children were still-born, 53 died between the ages of 15 days and under and above 15 days and under one year. Thirty-eight persons died at the age of 60 and upwards. Among non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 17. The average of daily mortality was 31·2.

WE ARE requested to state that Syed Abdas Sobhan, a zemindar of Bogra, has contributed Rs. 20 to the National Anthem Translation Fund.

A CORRESPONDENT, whose letter we inserted in our last issue, stated that Babu Radharaman Munshi a leading Hindu zemindar of Bogra, has paid Rs. 8000 for the erection of a Town Hall at that station, We now learn that the Babu has promised a contribution of Rs. 5000 only.

THE BRAHMO PUBLIC OPINION has the following :

One of the many causes which tend to make drinking fashionable vice amongst the educated classes, is the example of European teachers and professors. Many of these gentlemen freely take to the glass and are not always careful enough to conceal this part of their conduct from their pupils. Fancy the picture of a Principal or a Professor coming to that class, with the perfume of a wine about his person and with flies obstinately chasing his mouth ; what an edifying sight is that! And yet such sights are to be now and then seen, if our information is correct, in the local Presidency College. We do not ask the professors to be teetotallers by compulsion, but what we can reasonably ask them to do, is to forego this objectionable pleasure for those few hours of the day.

Is all this true? We hope the Director of Public Instruction will make an enquiry into the matter.

THE GOVERNMENT of Madras has issued the following instructions for the guidance of native gentlemen invited to Government House parties :

Standing Regulations on Ceremonial dress. Hindu and Mahomedan gentlemen, invited to Government House, are requested to observe the following instructions with regard to dress. The headdress should consist of a turban. The external dress should be a long robe, a westland or girdle should be worn over or under the robe, and the lower limbs should be carefully covered. Loose shawls are inadmissible. The feet need not be covered, but if shoes or boots be worn they must be of black polished leather.

THE GOVERNMENT of India has appointed Dr. Abdul Razock, Assistant Surgeon, Bengal Presidency, to act as Vice-Consul at Jeddah in connection with the pilgrim traffic. About five years ago, he was selected by the Government of India to proceed to Jeddah to report on the best means of alleviating the discomforts and suffering to which Indian pilgrims to Mecca are subjected—a duty he very ably discharged.

THE FOLLOWING is a complete programme of the Viceroy's approaching tour :—

		NOVEMBER.
Leave Simla	...	6
Spend the night at Pinjore	...	6
Arrive at Umballa, and leave again by night train	...	7
Reach Lahore, and hold a Levee at noon	...	8
Leave Lahore for Miani, halt for night at Pinddadun Khan		9
Go into Camp at Durapore *via* Jhelum	...	10
In Camp at Durapur	11, 12 and	13
Return to Jhelum, and proceed to Tangrote	...	14
Halt at Tangrote	...	15
Return to Jhelum, and proceed to Attock by night train	...	16
Reach Attock, go on to Peshawur, and return to Lahore by night train	...	17
At Lahore	18, 19, 20, 21 and	22
Leave for Rupar by night train	...	22
Reach Rupar in the morning	...	23
Open Canal, and leave in the evening for Lucknow	...	24
Reach Lucknow in the evening	...	25
At Lucknow	26 to	30
Levee	...	27
		DECEMBER.
Leave Lucknow by night train	...	1
Reach Calcutta in the evening	...	2

THE STATESMAN has received the following telegram from Rangoon :

Digitized with financial assistance from the National Archives of India on 07 August, 2017

RANGOON, SEPTEMBER 25.

The *Rangoon Times* reports that much alarm is felt in Mandalay owing to dacoities in the vicinity, and it is reported that there is rebellion and war.

Minhla, the town of Poungdwin, was *looted* of Rs. 80,000 of revenue by rebels, said to be under one of the Royal blood, who has been a refugee in the Shan states.

Indian traders from Poungdwin say they were at first spared by the rebels on account of their being British subjects, but the villagers, who had lost their all, subsequently *looted* them of everything but their clothes.

Three steamers from Mandalay, with Burmese troops on board, had reached Minhla; and the governor there assum s command of the force to act against the rebels.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Report on the Forest Administration of the Central Provinces for 1881-82. 2. Indian Meteorological Records for October and November 1881. 3. Army Circulars for August 1881. 4. Report on the Legal Affairs of the Bengal Government for 1881-82. 5. Government Resolution on the Annual Report of the Patna Division for 1881-82. 6. Observations on the Report of the Select Committee on the Contagious Diseases Acts. 7. 'Our Hereditary Legislators,' being six letters on the House of Lords. By Verax. 8. Sir John Pope Hennessey K. C. M. G. on the Contagious Diseases Ordinance in the Colony of Hongkong. 9. Rules and Proceedings of Aryamohila Sumaj or the Indian Ladies' Association. (Bombay.) 10. Record and third Annual Reports of the Ghateswara Friends' Library for years 1880 and 1881. 11. A Bengali Primer in Roman character. By J. F. Browne, B.C.S. 12. A Hindi Primer in ditto. By ditto. 13. Lalita Vistara or Memoirs of the early life of Sakya Sunkur translated from the original Sanskrit. By Rajendralala Mitra. 14. Hindu Mythology Vedic and Puranic. By W. J. Wailkins of the London Missionary Society. 15. Letter of the North Bengal Union to A. W. Croft, Chairman of the Bengal Provincial Committee of the Education Commission. 16. Reports on the Commercial and Industrial Association, of the Kingdom of Belgium for 1880. 17. The Calcutta Journal of Medicine for August 1882. 18. Nababrindabun or a Religious Drama. By Cheerunjib Surma. 19. The Indian evidence Act and the oaths Act. Edited by C. G. Lewis, Attorney and Vakeel, High Court.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, September 25.—The Khedive was escorted from Ras-el-tin Palace through Alexandria by squadron of the Bengal Lancers, and arrived at Cairo at three this afternoon, where he was received by the Duke of Connaught and Sir Garnet Wolseley. The route from the station to the Palace was lined by the British troops, and the city was decorated. The populace received His Highness very cordially.

26.—The Khedive with the approval of the British Government has invited Baker Pasha, to reorganize the Egyptian army. The declaration of the British Government respecting the policy they intend to follow in Egypt, is anxiously awaited by the Powers. The question as to the re-assembling of the Conference at Constantinople has been deferred during the exchange of views by the Powers. Mr John Dillon has resigned his seat in Parliament on the ground of ill health.

27.—The latest advices from Egypt state that Sir Garnet Wolseley is unwell. The Khedive yesterday held a reception which was numerously attended, and he took the opportunity of rebuking the members of the Ulema for meddling in politics. His Highness refused to receive some Pashas who were desirous of being presented. A grand review of the British forces will be held at Cairo on Saturday. The ironclad *Minotaur* has been ordered to Aboukir to remark the force of Marines who proceed to Malta, and the Channel Squadron will follow. A number of Swiss have been enrolled at Geneva for service in the new Egyptian gendarmerie. Baker Pasha proposes to take to Egypt all the British Officers now serving in the Turkish gendarmerie. A despatch from Sir Garnet Wolseley says that the Khedive through him conveys his warmest gratitude to England for her services in suppressing the rebellion in Egypt. In a speech made by Mr. Fawcett he abused the former Control in Egypt, which he hoped would not be revived. He eulogised the services of the Indian troops in Egypt, and adhered to his views already expressed regarding the expenses of the Indian contingent.

28.—The 63rd, 95th, and the 96th regiments, besides a detachment of 21 Engineers, are under orders to embark at Suez for India. Sir Garnet Wolseley and Sir Edward Malet consider that 10,000 men is a sufficient force to maintain order in Egypt. A court-martial has been appointed at Cairo and Alexandria to try cases submitted by the Egyptian Commission. An amnesty will be issued to all subaltern officers concerned in the rebellion.

28.—At the Cairo railway station this afternoon, an ammunition train exploded spontaneously during the officers' races, The explosion was due to the intense heat. The station is now in flames, and the Arabs and Europeans are flying for safety. Thirty lives were lost.

29.—The explosion at Cairo killed three men belonging to the 60th Regiment, and destroyed Commissariat and Ordance Stores to the estimated value of £100,000. Sir Garnet Wolseley recovered from his indisposition, and will remain Egypt at least for a fortnight, until the Court-martial on the rebels and the arrangements respecting the withdrawal of troops and the organisation of the army are all settled. The Porte has presented a note to Earl Dufferin, thanking England for restoring order in Egypt and expressing a hope that a close friendship will continue to exist between the Porte and Great Britain. The *Times* in a leading article to-day recommends that the force remains in Egypt shall consist partly of Indian troops.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(SESSION 1882.)

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Friday, the 6th October at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Action of Electric Currents upon each other. Electro-Magnetism.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, F.C.S., F. I. C., on Saturday, the 7th October at 3 P. M.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1882.

JAIL MANUFACTURES.

THE Government of India has published a very important Resolution conceived in a most enlightened and liberal spirit on the subject of jail manufactures. In pursuance of its policy of encouraging indigenous industries it considers the question of jail manufactures and the position, which the State should take up with reference to this and the local markets. In 1877 a Prison Conference was appointed to report on jail manufactures, and that body was of opinion that if the labour of prisoners were devoted chiefly to the production of articles required by Government, no serious question need arise as to the competition of jails with private trade. The conclusions arrived at by the Conference were generally approved by the Government of India of the day. The present Government is, however, of opinion that there is much in the present system of jail manufactures to which objection may fairly be taken upon economic grounds. In the Resolution before us the Government discusses in a masterly manner the economic bearings of the question. Thus it says that "when Government becomes a manufacturer, there is no practical check on the profit and loss account, such as applies in the case of a private trader. The accounts are merged in the transactions of the province and the empire. The officer concerned in no way finds his own private income affected. It is sometimes doubtful whether in the compilation of the accounts of profit and loss all the items that a private trader would have to reckon on are considered, especially when these take the form of capital; and as above remarked, there is no practical check which would serve to demonstrate their presence or absence." No one can deny that there is great force in this reasoning. The Jail Superintendent having no personal interest in the results of jail manufactures he necessarily occupies a position prejudicial to the private manufacturer or trader. But the question involves the general question of direct Government works of any kind as opposed to private enterprise. For instance the Government workshops in the Public Works Department are in competition with private trades in respect of the articles produced in those shops. Take the case of the Akra brick-fields. Surely the market can supply bricks to Government to any quantity. But the Government finds that bricks of the quality which the Akra fields produce cannot always be had in the open market, and it therefore goes to the expense of maintaining a special establishment for the production of first-class bricks. The same remarks apply to the Government dockyard. The principle on which calculation of profits connected with the workshops, the dockyard, and the brick-fields is based, applies equally to jails for purposes of manufactures. There, as in the jails, the superintendent has no personal interest in the outturn of labour. But the larger question remains behind. The Resolution says, "if Government, by its own action hinders the productive employment of capital and therefore, the accumulation of wealth, it must inevitably, by so much, render the tax-paying community less capable of bearing any burthens which may be imposed upon it. The receipts on account of taxation will, in some form or another, be less than they otherwise would be. This is quite certain, although it is, of course, impossible to represent, in arithmetical form, the precise results which will accrue.

All that can be said is that it is easier to underestimate than to over-estimate the effect which Government action will produce." This is a sound principle, admirably enunciated, which cannot but command the assent of reasonable and thinking men, but the question is whether the present system of jail manufactures has operated prejudicially to the interests of private trade. The Governor-General in Council has not overlooked this question. The Resolution says:

"This argument can only be accepted with great caution. It is to be remembered that when once Government begins to compete with private trade, the effect produced is altogether disproportionate to the actual outturn of the Government manufactory. What private traders fear is not only what Government does, but what it might do. If a manufacturer of bricks, or blankets or carpets, or whatever the articles may be, suddenly finds that another manufacturer has started a similar business and has entered into competition with him, he knows, with tolerable certainty, what he has to fear. He knows that he and his competitor will compete on equal terms. He knows especially that if his competitor, in order to undersell him, lowers his prices to such an extent as to realise a loss, he must either raise his price before long or become bankrupt. But in competing with Government the conditions of things are wholly different. In this case the manufacturer finds himself in competition with an adversary possessed of what, for the purposes of this argument, may be considered an unlimited amount of capital, and who can perfectly well carry on his business for years with a total disregard of the ordinary laws which in private life must govern commercial transactions. It is also to be borne in mind that whilst in most cases, the private trader, against whom Government competes only carries on his business at one spot, there are generally several jails in each Province. The gain at one jail may, therefore, be made to compensate for the loss at another. For these reasons Government competition must be regarded from a wholly different point of view from the competition of an ordinary trade rival.

We hold that the general principles enunciated by the Government of India on the subject, are irresistible but we must confess it does not seem clear to us that there has been appreciable mischief to private trade. The amount of profits from jail manufacturers for all India it appears is only £1,00,000. In the United Kingdom manufactures are allowed in jails. On this point the Governor-General in Council remarks:

"Perhaps it may be the case that in a country like England, which possesses very extensive manufacturing industries jail competition cannot exercise any very appreciable effect, though even in England the sale of jail manufactures had admittedly excited a great deal of opposition. But it is impossible in this matter to apply to India without qualification the experience of the working of a similar system in England. The stages of industrial advance in the two countries are very different. Many Indian industries are only in their infancy. A degree of Government competition which in England may be comparatively harmless might in India do a great deal of harm. It is not the duty of Government, either in India or elsewhere, to foster the artificial growth of indigenous industries by the adoption of methods,—such, for instance, as a high protective tariff,—which are opposed to sound economic doctrine. But it is the duty of Government in India even more than elsewhere, to carefully remove all hindrances to the spontaneous development of those industries. The proposition that jail manufactures, as they are at present carried on in India, do not check the growth of native industries is a very doubtful one. Complaints on this score from private traders are by no means unfrequently heard.

So judged by English analogy the manufactures in Indian Jails are not objectionable, but India, the Governor-General in Council holds, occupies an exceptional position. The question we repeat is whether the jail manufactures of India are prejudicial to the private trade. On this point we should like to have more information. The Government of India, however, does not deny that jail labour ought to be made productive. It says, "the cardinal principle, therefore, which the Governor General in Council would lay down is that, although the requirements of prison management necessitate the employment of prisoners on productive labour, yet at the same time that labour need *not* be made as productive as possible, and every endeavour should be made to turn it into channels which may, as little as possible, hinder the spontaneous

growth of native industries." Accordingly it directs the extension of extra-mural labour. It admits the difficulties in the way of this form of labour. It observes :

Without doubt, there are difficulties in the way of employing convicts extra-murally. In the first place, there is danger in employing the more desperate characters in the manner proposed. A large discretion must, of course, be left to the Jail Superintendents in selecting men for extra-mural employment. In the second place, strong police guards are required, which involve extra expense. In the third place, convict camps may have to be formed, as appears to have been done in the case of the Soane Canal works, or the suggestion of the Prison Conference of 1877 may have to be adopted (Report, p. 109), to the effect that portable jails should be constructed. This would of course, involve increased expenditure. There is, however, no reason for supposing that the extra expenditure, either on police guards or on portable jails constitutes an insuperable difficulty. In the case of a public work executed by the State, it would be quite justifiable to charge any such extra expenditure to the work. The cost would in all probability be more than recouped by a saving in expenditure on free labour, and indeed the experience of the Punjab Government in connection with the Rupar public works jail proves that this form of employment is really very remunerative, while the convicts have enjoyed better health than in the ordinary jails of the Province. As regards public works constructed through the agency of private enterprise, an endeavour might very well be made to contract for the employment of convict labour. In the case of a railway passing for a considerable distance through a thinly populated district, any private Company would not improbably be very glad to employ convict labour. Of course the Company would have to bear any extra cost for guards or for portable jails, but they might, when it was of great importance to open out any particular tract of country, be given the labour either gratis or at very low rates.

The Governor-General in Council requests that Local Governments will now consider, in communication with its Public Works Department, on what large public works, whether under State or private management, convict labour can be most suitably employed, and that plans for the establishment of convicts camps on or near such works may be carefully worked out. Labour on public works should in future be looked upon as the principal mode of employing long term prisoners throughout British India.

Opinions like events seem to move in a cycle. Formerly Indian prisoners used to be employed in gangs on roads. This was considered to be subversive of discipline, attended with danger and expense, and opposed to the vital principle of penal restrictions, viz., the reformation of the prisoner. Dr. Mouat and other prison reformers strongly argued against the system, and it was after much deliberation the present method was adopted. But there is a revulsion of opinion on the subject. The arguments on which the present system was based have not, however, lost their validity. On grounds of humanity and morality we are of opinion that the change proposed will be a retrograde move.

The Government of India does not altogether object to the application of jail labour to the production of manufactures. It chiefly objects to the employment of machinery and steam power. So far we agree. The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that there should be a certain number of authorised industries, and no others should be allowed anywhere without the special sanction of the Government of India. In the selection of these industries careful attention should be paid to their penal character. His Excellency in Council sanctions the following industries :

In the opinion of the Governor General in Council the weaving of the coarse jute, cotton, or woollen fabrics by means of ordinary hand-looms, the making of coarse matting, brick and tile making, hand-sawing of timber, oil-pressing, stone-breaking, and soorkee-pounding, are the forms to which in-door prison labour should everywhere be limited. The weaving of fine cloths, and the making of such things as table-cloths, towels, curtains, and the like, should nowhere be permitted. Private enterprise can already supply such articles, and the occupation is in any case not sufficiently penal. Carpet and rug-making may be allowed where the trade is already a jail specialty, and until private enterprise shows itself ready to supply the demand. Tent cloth may be woven, but the work of fitting up the tent and making all such accessories as chicks, purdahs, poles, &c., should be left to outside labour. Spinning, twine-making, and making up clothing, &c., should only be allowed in female jails. All such occupations as boot and sandal making, blacksmith's work, carpentry, rattan work, furniture making, tailoring, making of horse clothing, book-binding, paper-making, pottery work, sugar-making, silversmith's work, and rope-making, must be discontinued. Jail Superintendents should be instructed by their Local Governments to set themselves without delay to remodel the in-door industries of their jails in order to bring them into harmony with these orders of the Government of India.

Printing will be prohibited in the jails. The result of the new system will we fear be loss of revenue and increase of expenditure to the Provincial Governments. We dare say the Government of India will recoup this loss to the Provincial Governments.

THE COURT OF WARDS, N.-W. P., IN 1880-81.

THE COURT OF WARDS is an institution, which if properly worked, confers enormous benefits on the country ; and for this reason we always watch its working with great interest. We have before us the report on the Court of Wards, North-Western Provinces, for the Revenue year ending 30th September, 1881. The report deals with 124 estates, having an income of Rs. 33,08,154. During the year seven estates were released from management, leaving 117 under the charge of the Court at the close of the year. Mr. Bazett Colvin, the junior member of the Allahabad Board of Revenue, points out the good results which these estates have derived and are deriving from the management of the Court of Wards. The Secretary to the Board writes :—" Take, for example, the case of Manda. The family is one of the most ancient and respectable of the North-West nobility. They are Gaharwar Rajputs popularly believed to be descended from Raja Jai Chandra of Kanauj, and the title of Raja appears to be of immemorial antiquity. The estate came under the management of the Court of Wards in 1864, when the present proprietor was only four years old. It was then encumbered with debts amounting to above sixteen and-a-half lakhs. These debts have now all been paid off. This estate has been in all ways put into excellent order, and on the 30th September, 1881, it had a surplus balance of Rs. 1,76,638. The same process has been going on in other estates. In Jauli Rs. 45,818 of debt has been paid off, in Kishen Singh Rs. 2,718, and in Rajwara Rs. 9,167. These estates have been completely cleared of debt ; and though it has not been possible to do this in all cases, examination of the detailed reports will show that there is not one of the estates, which has been released, which has not profited greatly by being placed under the trusteeship of the Court. The general progress made in the payment of debts is most satisfactory. The estates now under the superintendence of the Court had a total of Rs. 66,98,836 of debt when superintendence was first assumed ; subsequently Rs. 21,51,804 were borrowed. It must be remembered that a great part of the money thus borrowed was for the purpose of clearing off previous debts which were running on at ruinous rates of interest. Excluding the interest, Rs. 49,61,111 of the principal of the debt have now been paid off, leaving only a balance of Rs. 38,89,529 at the close of the year." These figures speak for themselves and scarcely require any comment. During the year under report eighteen estates were taken under management ; eleven were placed under the Court by order of the Civil Court, ten under Act XL. of 1858 and one under Act XXXV. of 1858. Government declared the proprietors of four estates incompetent. Of the properties placed under management by the order of Government, the largest is the Sahanpur taluka. The principal object, besides the preservation of the family from ruin, in taking these estates under management of the Court, we are told, was to test the assertion, that the forest tract had been over-assessed at settlement. We read :—" At present income falls short of the Government demand by some Rs. 4,000, and it is unlikely that it will be increased to any considerable extent for a year or two. The Board have accordingly directed the suspension of Rs. 3,000 per annum on account of revenue for three years. At the end of that period it is hoped that the Board will be in a position to give a definite opinion on the capabilities of the tract, and either to order the collection of the suspended balances or to recommend a reduction of the *Jama*." It would be interesting to know how far has the indebtedness of the proprietor of the Sahunpur taluka been due to the heaviness of the assessment. The Board's admission that the income of the estate falls short of the Government demand by some Rs. 4,000 is significant, and speaks of effects of settlement operations in the North-Western Provinces more eloquently than volumes of declamation. The total rental demand of the estates under the Court for the year was Rs. 36,72,948, and their liabilities amounted to Rs. 30,09,833.

One of the most important questions connected with the Court of Wards, is the introduction of improvements. Sir George Campbell in Bengal and Sir John Strachey in the North-Western Provinces laid down the principle that a portion of the surplus of Court of Ward estates should be expended on so-called improvements. Mr. Bazett Colvin, we are glad to notice, entertains sound views on this subject. The report under notice says :—" Mr. Colvin thinks that all attempts at improvements in this direction should be conducted with the greates caution. Where the supposed improvement is a real one (and it must be remembered that its reality may often depend on local circumstances), he believes that the native cultivators will be ready to accept it when a fair opportunity has been given him of forming his opinion ; but where, either from local circumstances or on account of expense, it is not accepted readily by the cultivator, it is useless to attempt to force it upon him. Where the success of an experiment is not believed in by the cultivators, if it is thought worth while to carry it on at all, it should certainly not be done at his risk or expense. Nor does Mr. Colvin think that, unless in very exceptional cases, it should be done at the expense of the estate." Mr. Bazett Colvin quotes with approval the following passage from the Lower Provinces Manual of the Court of Wards :—" It must be distinctly understood that Ward's estates are not to be made fields for experiments, nor is their surplus income to be applied to any purposes of which the results are uncertain. Managers, therefore, should not make use of their position to carry on merely experimental farming, but should act as an enlightened and prudent landowner would act in respect to his own property, and adopting any well-tested and clearly-demonstrated improvement either by works for adding to the permanent value of the estate or by the adoption of improved method of farming. When, therefore, any improvement in the method of cultivating or preparing any staple crop, or of rearing cattle or in the construction of implements, has been proved to be successful, it may without objection be introduced to the people and popularised by means of its adoption in Wards estates ; but it would be obviously unjustifiable to impose upon such estates the cost and risk of introducing agricultural improvements into the country. As a rule, no experiments should be attempted the success of which may not be reasonably expected." Mr. Crooke, C.S., Manager of the Awa estate—the largest zemindari in the North-Western Provinces, —seems to have thoroughly and correctly appreciated the position which should be taken by the manager of a Court of Wards' estate with reference to agricultural improvements. Mr. Crooke writes :—" As I have reported on previous occasions, it is a fallacy to suppose that cultivators do not select their seed or are ignorant of the advantages of good seed over bad. To suppose this is to form a very disparaging idea of the intelligence of cultivators—men who have devoted their lives to husbandry and have the accumulated experience of generations to guide them. As a matter of fact, every one who has any pretensions to be considered as good cultivators preserves seed very carefully. Some men have a reputation for producing particularly good staples, and seed from their farms is always in demand." Mr. Buck's famous " Kaisar" plough is not appreciated by the tenants of the Awa estate, and the other improved implements invented by the North-West Agricultural Depart-

TO THE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION.

A holiday having been given by the Governor-General in Council on account of the Election, I hope all candidates will do their best to bring as many of the Electors as they can to the poll. Even those who have secured votes, can lose nothing by having those votes renewed at the polling booths. While all whose supporters have been induced to vote otherwise than they intended, or whose votes have been given in an invalid manner, can set the matter right by coming to the poll and voting there.

H. L. HARRISON,
Chairman.

25th September, 1882.

Mr. Harrison's object is to educate the people to the advantage of open voting. There is much to be said in favour of his idea, but we will discuss the whole subject at leisure.

We hope the Polling Officers have been instructed not to detain unnecessarily long those, who will go to the polling booths to declare their votes.

SINCE LAST Saturday week the Hon'ble Romesh Chunder Mitter has ceased to be the Chief Justice of Bengal, and Sir Richard Garth is supposed to have resumed his high office. Those who were seized with tribulation or were suffering from Romeshophobia will now find rest, quiet and solace in the fact that the Bengali no longer rules the High Court. They will, however, have seen with disappointment that the elevation of the Hon'ble Romesh Chunder Mitter did not bring about those disasters, which they had predicted. All's well that ends well.

HOWEVER we may differ from the leaders of the Salvation Army as to the scope and character of their work we see no reason why this body of religious preachers should be prosecuted or persecuted in India in the exercise of their religious sentiments so long as they do not break the law or endanger public order and tranquility. So far as we can judge the Indian contingent of the Salvation Army do not mean to violate either, and we therefore see no reason why they should be victimized. Of course Major Tucker and his *confreres* are wrong in not obeying the orders of the Police, and in so far they have made themselves amenable to punishment, but surely the Police could have come to some understanding with them without violence to their feelings and conscientious scruples or endangering the public peace. In Calcutta the Brahmos and Christian Missionaries are allowed to hold Sankirtan processions through the public streets under Police regulations. Cannot similar arrangements be made in Bombay? To deny the Salvationists the liberty, which is enjoyed by every other religious sect, would be gross intolerance, and we do not think that any reasonable man, however he may dislike the ways of the Salvation Army, would give his assent to such arbitrary and high-handed proceedings. A morning contemporary remarks:

The extravagancies, the vulgarities, of the Salvationists, are a degradation of Christianity, and are not likely to advance the respect in which natives hold Europeans, whilst they are likely to give offence to a people so punctilious and so tenacious of certain forms of courtesy as the natives. We are sorry that the Salvationists should have selected India as a field for their warfare. We do not see what they expect to bring about. It cannot be Christian living, for that would be to suppose that the natives would suddenly become as extravagant in their manners as a nation of dancing Dervishes. It cannot be the spread of Christian doctrines, for we fail to find in any report of their proceedings anything like an appeal to the keen, the trained, and the astute intellect of the natives of India. Even, amongst Christians, of the class of those we find in India, the antics and extravagances of the Salvationists give offence, because they are an outrage against culture, self-respect, and a form of personal pride, which it is very easy to recognise, but very difficult to describe. We do not believe in a Christianity which appeals only to false nerves, and hysterical habits. We do not believe we are called upon to proclaim a noble faith at the corners of streets, in professional rivalry with acrobats in England, and even lower employments in India. We give the members of the party credit for earnestness and credit for zeal; but their earnestness is spoilt because it is over-ripe, and their zeal made dangerous, because of its tendency to ferment. But nothing can excuse their ignorance of India, and nothing condone their bumptious pretension in rushing at once to the conclusion that the sort of thing which would shake the heathenism of English roughs, would shake the beliefs of the natives of India.

Our contemporary may be quite right. But we submit on the broad ground of religious liberty the Salvationists have as much right to propagate Christianity in India in their own way as other Christian Missionaries so long as they do not break the law or the public peace. As far as the people are concerned they do not like that their ancestral religion should be abused by any person, but they cannot consistently with their own interests object to the spirit of perfect religious toleration followed by the Government of India.

THE INDIAN MUSEUM was hitherto open to the public free of charge, one day in the week being reserved for the genteel class. A proposition was lately started for the imposition of a small admission fee, in the same way that it is levied at the Zoo. But there was consideraable difference of opinion among the Trustees on the subject. Those who upheld the right of the people pointed out that no fee was charged for admission into the London Museum. At last a compromise has been effected by adding another reserved day for the benefit of the fashionable public, who do not evidently like to come with contact with the common herd. But no such special privilege is we believe granted in England. The advertizement which we insert elsewhere does not mention whether any fee will be charged for the tickets to be issued.

WE HAVE received the following letter from Poona:

POONA, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1882.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to send you a copy of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Arya Mohila Somaja, held at Poona on 31st May last. You will much oblige by taking a prominent notice of the same in your journal.

Pundita Roma Bai is the guiding spirit of this Association. Knowing full well the disadvantages under which Hindoo females labor, she has resolved to try her utmost to ameliorate their condition.

With this view, she has established the society under notice and in her evidence before the Education Commission, she pointed out the great necessity on the part of Government to take special care of the unfortunate women, seeing that, even the educated men do not take proper interest in their welfare. She is employed in publishing useful books for the education of women. Her book on the duties of females is a delicious fruit of her labors: and as an encouragement to her, the Director of Public Instruction has taken 500 copies evidently with a view of introducing it in the schools of this Presidency. Her explanations of selected texts from the Purans are doing much towards the religious and moral training of women.

Bengal is unfortunate in having lost the valuable services of so good a lady.

Yours obediently,
AN ADVOCATE OF THE CAUSE OF FEMALE IMPROVEMENT.

We regret we cannot make room for the proceedings referred to.

THE MEDINI is a vernacular paper published at Midnapore, which has the merit of being outspoken and never fails to hit hard the local officers whenever they go awry. The outspokenness of the editor it is said has brought trouble upon him. He gave evidence in a suit in a local Court, which is alleged to be false, and he is charged with perjury. As the case is *sub judice*, it is beyond the jurisdiction of the press, but we may mention that there is a widespread feeling among the friends of the editor that he may fall a victim to his outspokenness and independence. We confess we for one do not share this feeling. We have faith in British justice, and even if it should fail in Midnapore, though we do not for a moment believe that it will, the judicial machinery is so ordered as to secure justice at the end. We shall watch this case with interest.

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following notification of the Military Department:

Simla the 23rd September 1882.

The Military operations in Egypt having been brought to a successful close by the British Forces under the command of General Sir Garnet Wolseley, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., the Most Hon'ble the Viceroy and Governor General in Council desires to express the gratification of the Government of India that the Indian Division of the Expeditionary Force has taken an honourable and important part in those operations and has fully maintained the reputation of the Indian Army.

His Excellency in Council also notices with approbation the desire evinced by all branches and classes of Her Majesty's Indian Army to be allowed the opportunity of sharing in this Expedition, as testified to by the reports received from various quarters and the numerous offers of local corps to volunteer for service in Egypt.

The Governor General in Council has also had much satisfaction in receiving numerous offers of contribution in men and money for employment on the Expedition from the Princes of India; His Excellency in Council cordially recognises this proof of their loyalty to the Government of Queen-Empress.

By order of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council.

G. CHESNEY, *Colonel*,
Secretary to the Government of India.

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following letter sent to us signed by more than one hundred ryots:

SIR,—We are exceedingly glad to bring to your notice that lately our worthy zemindar Babu Govinda Chandra Rai of Narail, Brahmandanga, personally visited his Estate Rupapat. He received us very kindly, and heard all our complaints particularly in open court. Every body was satisfied for the liberal consideration for his poor Ryots, who are all along suffering for heavy debts and arrears of rent. He kindly gave us a remission of about two lacks of rupees on account of Paddy, and nearly a lakh on account of money advanced in the time of scarcity. Moreover, he has remitted us about Rs. 10,000, on account of arrears of rent. We fervently hope that all of us will live in a happy and prosperous state, if he now and then make such concession for his suffering ryots. His under-Amlas have no influence over him. We pray that our respectable Zemindar may live long with prosperity.

The ryots have abundant cause to be grateful to their zemindar. Such expression of feeling deserves the widest publicity.

WE HAVE received from a correspondent the following criticisms of the performance of the new drama *Nava Brindaban* by the amateurs of Babu Keshubchunder Sen's Brahmo Samaj:

To inculcate religious truths under the pleasing garb of a Drama is indeed quite novel. The author of the Naba Brindaban deserves very great credit for being the pioneer of a mode of religious instruction heretofore untried, which however is apt to be misconstrued, it being generally held to be *infra dig* to treat a sublime subject with levity. This view, justly considered, is erroneous. In this age of irreligion and scepticism it is more impressive to teach religion by acting on the stage, and demonstrate almost mathematically the evils of leading a dissolute life by way of an example than by merely reading homilies on the subject to an unwilling audience. Hence if there is the least fault in this procedure, it is more the fault of the times than of that master-mind which conceived such a noble design.

The performance of the New Dispensation drama was certainly a complete success. The drop scene is quite original. It depicts graphically that primeval age, when Sin had not entered the world, and all animals grazed side by side. It is in fact a thorough portraiture of that Arcadian bliss of which the poets sing.

The appearance of Babu Keshub Chunder Sen as a "*Rittik*" on the stage was truly majestic and his invocation of the Goddess of Knowledge highly sublime. Nara Huri Babu's *autchala* in Act 1 scene 1 was so faithfully representated that one could mistake it for the original.

Without entering into the details of the plot of the drama we would content ourselves with remarkiug that in Ubinash the evils of intemperance are fully exposed. The transition from a young man of finished education and immaculate character to an inveterate drunkard, and slowly and insensibly to a forger and a murderer for the sake of filthy lucre is quite appalling. Well might he exclaim with Cassio—"Oh! Wine, if thou hast no other name to be called by, let us call thee, Devil!" Whilst exulting with his comrades on his success in evading justice, he is apprehended by the Police. He weeps like a child, whilst being dragged by them. The frantic lamentations of his mother and wife are heart-rending. Even the obdurate Policeman is moved to tears, and finds it difficult to snatch the culprit from the firm grasp of his daughter. Ubinash is transported to the Andaman island. This heavy shock causes a reaction, and whilst at the Andamans he feels a compunction for his past errors. The scene of his repentance on the sea shore is highly edifying. The idea of his eternal separation from his family and friends torments him, and whilst he is deeply engaged in prayer, his fellow-convict ridicules him, and tries his best to wean him from such thoughts. Heaven hears his prayer, and he is released. He comes back home so much reformed that he gives up all idea of worldly grandeur and happiness, and takes to the life of an ascetic with his devotedly attached wife. Babu Pertaub Chunder Mozumdar capitally personated the Abdheda Nanda Swami, wrapt in meditation at the Neilgherris. His exhortations to Ubinash and his wife in a truly patriarchal spirit excite a thrilling interest amongst the audience which no language can describe. The personification by Babu Keshub Chunder Sen of the Pahari Babu trembling with age and climbing up with difficulty the steep ascent of the hills is no less interesting, and his laconic and pithy address to Abinash and his wife is highly impressive. We may here remark *en-passant* that it is admirable to note how Pertaub Babu remains unmoved like a statue on the Nilghiri Hills forming as it were a part and parcel thereof, whilst absorbed in devout contemplation of the deity. Whilst Ubinash is about to yield again to the temptations of Satan, a voice from Heaven exclaiming. "Beware! "Beware!" exercises a magic effect on him, and electrifies the whole audience. The ravings of madness on the part of Ubinash's wife, whose head was turned with the series of misfortunes which befell her on the transportation of her husband, the loss of a darling baby, would indeed do credit to an English stage.

The self-abnegation of Hurrisook, third son of Norohori Babu, leading a monastic life amidst the thousand temptations in his way and in spite of the remonstrances of his friends and relatives cannot but excite our admiration of him.

The wife of the second son of Noro Hori Babu in European costume without the slightest knowledge of English, imbibing with difficulty a taste for European dish, and wasting all her energies on bedecking herself as a European lady presents an excellent caricature of the fashionable vice of the day in imitating the Europeans without those noble qualities which adorn them.

Last though not the least the stammering brother of Norohori Babu appearing on the stage with a *kuka* in hand and cursing his nephew Hurrisook for his proselytism, nay threatening to break the *huka* on his head excite the risibility of the audience in no ordinary degree.

We were present at the last performance, which we must say was very interesting and a decided success.

JUST as we were going to press we received the following account of a social reunion, to which Mr. Wyer invited the *elite* of Hooghly:

On Saturday last Mr. Wyer Magistrate and Collector of Hooghly invited to an Evening Party the *elite* of the native community of the District and also some of the European gentlemen of the Station. Refreshments were provided in a tent in right orthodox fashion for the Hindu guests most of whom heartily partook of the *dejeuner*. There were chess and cards in an ante room which engaged some young gentlemen. A number of first class Hindustani musicians came from Calcutta and discoursed excellent music. Mr. and Mrs. Wyer were all attention. The guests returned home exceedingly pleased with the entertainment.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUAL EFFICACY IN CONSUMPTION AND WASTING DISEASES.—Dr. Henry Hanks, author of "Consumption its Treatment and Curability," writes:—"The superior efficacy of Dr de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil over the Pale Cod Liver Oil has proved, in my experience, unequivocal. Patients who have persisted for several months in the use of the latter, with scarcely any perceptible improvement, have after a brief trial of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, acquired such fatness, and those distressing symptoms accompanying emaciation have so rapidly subsided, that I have been induced to confide in its reputed remedial powers, and consequently to advice its substitution for the Pale Cod Liver Oil." Benjamin Clarke, Esq., M. R. C. S., F. L. S., author of "Notes and suggestions on Cod Liver Oil and its Uses," writes:—"The effect of the Pale Oil on the circulation is so feebly marked as not to be perceptible; so that in some cases of extreme debility, the patient, from the slowness of its action, is in danger of sinking from exhaustion, or the disease, as in consumption, may become incurable from protraction. My inference agrees with the remark that Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Oil effects a cure in half the time that the Pale Oil does." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co, 77, Strand, London.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Ex. Engr. Dacca	20	0	0
Combaconum Reading Room	6	10	0
Tadpatri Socialist	5	0	0
Shodasheo Ram Chundra, Hardwa	13	4	0
Arrah Library	13	4	0
Mysore Literary Union, Madras	13	4	0
K. Anund Row Esq., Muslipatam	6	10	0
Baboo Ram Churn Roy, Baghirhat	13	2	0
" Rama Churn Roy, Nusrigunge	13	4	0
" Kylash Chunder Dutt, Tipperah	11	8	0
" Bepin Behary Ghose, Jamooie	6	4	0
" Brojo Nath Bhuttacharjee, Meherpore	10	0	0
" Ghoneshum Banerjee, Kurseong	6	10	0
" Beny Madhub Singh, Sewan, Chupra	13	4	0
" Bejoy Kissen Mookerjee, Ooturparah	13	4	0
" Nund Gopal Ghatuck, Mymensingh	10	0	0
" Amoola Churn Mozoomdar, Hardi	3	5	0
" Romony Mohun Roy Chowdry Roy Bahadur, Tusbandhar	13	4	0

ERATUM.

For Hari Mohan Roy, Rs. 6-10 read 6 0 0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*September* 27, 1882.

GENERAL—Baboo Poorno Chunder Ghose, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Rajshahye, is vested with the appellate powers of Colr under Act VII (B C) of 1880 in that dist.

Baboo Baroda Das Bose, Sub-Depy Colr, Kooshtea, Nuddea, leave for two months and twenty days, from date he may avail himself of it.

Baboo Sreeram Gangooly, Tempy Sub-Depy Colr, i the Presdy Divn, is posted to Satkhira, in Khoolna from date he joined his apptmt.

Mr H Beveridge, Dist and Sess Judge of Patna, leave for one day, in extension of leave granted 20th Feb, 1882.

Baboo Dwarka Nath Sen, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, in tempy charge of the Aurungabad Divn of the Gya dist, is transfd to Beerbhoom, and is posted to the sudder station of that dist.

Mr W Rattray, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Beerbhoom, is transfd to Nuddea, and posted to the sudder station of that dist.

Baboo Medni Prosad Singh, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Patna, leave for one month and fifteen days, from date he availed himself of it.

Baboo Dwarka Nath Mookerjee, Tempy Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Shahabad, is transfd tempy to Patna, and posted to the sudder station of that dist.

POLICE—Mr G A Patten, Offg Asst Supdt of Police in Assam, to be an Asst Supdt of Police of the 2nd gde from 29th May, 1882, vice Mr C H C Sevenoaks.

The following Offg Asst Supdts of Police to be Asst Supdts of Police, 3rd gde, from 1st May, 1882:—

Mr H E C Paget, Offg Asst Supdt of Police, Gya.

Mr A S Judge, Offg Asst Supdt of Police, Sasseram, Shahabad.

Mr W C Fasson, Offg Asst Supdt of Police, Naga hills.

The above officers are also to act in the 2nd gde of Asst Supdts of Police, from 1st May, 1882.

Mr E W Payne, Offg Asst Supdt of Police, on deputn, as Asst Supdts of Jail, Bhagulpore, to be an Asst Supdt of Police, 3rd gde, from 1st May, 1882.

Mr Payne will continue to be employed in his present duties in the Jail Dept.

Mr R F H Pughe, Offg Dist Supdt of Police, Chittagong Hill Tracts, to be a Dist Supdt of Police of the 5th gde, from 1st June, 1882.

Mr G W S Cox, Asst Supdt of Police, Mymensigh, to act as Dist Supdt of Police, Hooghly, during absence, on deputn, of Mr A H James.

Mr W P Davis, Dist Supdt of Police, Nuddea, leave for one month, from date as he may avail himself of it.

Baboo Gopal Hurry Mullick, Asst Supdt of Police Jessore, to act as Dist Supdt of Police, Nuddea, during absence, of Mr W P Davis.

Lieut-Col J C C Daunt, VC, Dist Supdt of Police, Bogra, leave for one month from 25th inst, or subsequent date.

Baboo Issan Chunder Banerjee, Inspr of Police, Bogra, to have charge of the office of Dist Supdt of Police of that dist, during absence, on leave, of Lieut-Col J C C Daunt.

EDUCATION—Baboo Brnarayan Mookerjee, of Class V of the Sub Educatl Service, officiated in Class of IV of that during absence of Baboo Gobindrachandra Mitra, Head Master Zillah School, Bogra.

Baboo Shyamacharn Das, Seed Master, Midnapore College, to be Secy to the Dist School Committee of Midnapore.

MARINE—Lieut A W Stiffe, (late I N) Port Officer Calcutta, leave for one month, from 23rd inst, or subsequent date.

Mr. R B Yates, Depy Consvr of the Port of Calcutta, to act as Port Officer Calcutta, in addn to his own duties, during absence of Lieut A W Stiffe.

OPIUM—Mr T F Peppe, Sub Depy Opium Agt in the Behar Agency, reported his own departure from India, on special leave on the 1st April 1882.

JAILS—Asst Surg Mohendralall Bose, in charge of Charitable Dispy at Raneegunge, Burdwan, was also in charge of the Raneegunge sub-divn and subsdy jail from 24th March to 31st May, 1882.

Surg R L Dutt, MD, Civil Surg of Bankoora, leave for three months, from date he may avail himself of it.

Asst Surg Jadubkristo Sen, in charge of the Burrisal Charitabe Dispy, to have medl charge of the Civil station of Bankoora, during absence of Surg R L Dutt.

NOTIFICATION—In continuation of notifn 20th of June last, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of 21st idem, Mr. J U Cockburn, Offg Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Pubna, is declared to have passed in Bengali by the higher standard at the examn held in May, 1882.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT—Baboo Ganendranath Pal, Offg Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Noakholly, is vested with the powers of a Magte of 2nd Class.

Baboo Upendrachandra Mookerjee, Offg Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Noakholly, is vested with the powers of a Magte of the 2nd Class.

Baboo Motilall Sircar, Sub Judge Rungpore, leave for three weeks, from date he may avail himself of it.

Baboo Kalikrishna Chondhri, Offg 2nd Munsif of Cuttack is apptd to act as a Munsif in that dist and to be ordinarily stationed at Balasore.

Advertisements.

BOOK OF GOLDEN DEEDS.

(ENTRANCE COURSE FOR 1883.)

Price Rupee 1 *annas* 4, *Postage* 2 *annas.*

To be had of D. N. Ghosh & Co., Central Library, 57 College Street, Calcutta.

TO BRICK-MAKERS AND CONTRACTORS.

Bricks makers are wanted to manufacture not less than 20 lacs of table moulded bricks at Noakhally during the approaching season.

A staff of men sufficient to work 6 pugmills and 36 tabbs is required.

All tools and plant will be provided to the contractors as well as bullock power for working the pugmills and huts will be allowed to such of the men as may reside in the brick fields.

Full information as to estimated rates may be had on application to the undersigned, to Supervisor Baboo Benode Behary Pal or at the office of the Superintending Engineer Central Circle, Writers' Building Calcutta.

Any further information required may be obtained from and tenders submitted to,

J. W. JOHNSON, C. E.,
Executive Engineer,
Chittagong Division.

Dated Chittagong, the 22nd September, 1882.

Notice.

Separate tenders are invited for each of the works mentioned below, under the District Road Cess Committee, Hooghly. The tenders will be received up to the noon of 10th October next, when they will be opened by the District Engineer in the presence of such contractors as may be present. Earnest money in half currency notes, amounting to Rs. 100 and 500 respectively, must accompany the tenders. The Chairman reserves the right to reject the lowest or any tenders. For forms of tender and particulars, apply at the District Engineer's Office, Hooghly.

	Amount of Estimate.
Metalling one mile of Howrah and Jugutbullabhpur Road	Rs. 4,279
Thorough Repairs to Howrah and Jugutbullabhpur Road	„ 22,221

JOY GOPAL ROKHIT, C. E.,
District Engineer, Hooghly and Howrah.

NOTICE.

Law-books for sale. Cash to accompany order. Madras High Court Reports 1862-75. 8 vols half law, calf new, Rs 75. Moore—Indian Appeals, 14 vols., reprint Madras half law calf new Rs. 200. Macnaghten's Select Reports of S. D. A. 1791, 1848 inclusive 7 vols., cloth, unused copy Rs. 40. Tagore Law Lectures 1870-71-72 together Rs. 22.

KEDAR NATH BANERJEE,
15, Bosepara Lane, Calcutta.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

NOTIFICATION.

Darjeeling, the 26th September, 1882.

As Monday October 2nd has been fixed for the Municipal elections in Calcutta the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to direct that all public offices in Calcutta under the Government of Bengal shall be closed on that day.

(SD.) F. B. PEACOCK,
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

INDIAN MUSEUM.

After the first October next admission to the Indian Museum on Thursdays and Fridays will be by annual tickets, obtainable either from the Trustees or from the Superintendent of the Museum.

Indian Museum, 27th September, 1882.

DACCA AND MYMENSING STATE RAILWAY.

CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF SLEEPERS.

Tenders are invited for the supply of hardwood sleepers for this Railway. Conditions of contract, specification and Form of Tender can be obtained on application to the undersigned. The latest date for tenders is the 20th October. Tenders must be forwarded in sealed and registered covers marked "Tender for Sleepers" and addressed to Engineer-in-Chief, Dacca and Mymensing State Railway, Darjeeling. It is to be distinctly understood that the Government is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender, nor will reasons be given for the rejection of any tender.

HORACE BELL, M.I.C.E.,
Engineer-in-Chief.

Darjeeling, 27th September, 1882.

DACCA AND MYMENSING STATE RAILWAY.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Tenders are invited for the construction of this line by contract on a schedule of rates. The conditions of contract, specification and Bill of Quantities can be obtained by application to the undersigned accompanied by a sum of Rs. 25, which will not be returned. The sections and drawings can be seen at the office of the Engineer-in-Chief at Darjeeling up to the 20th October. The latest date for the receipt of tenders will be the 31st October. All tenders must be sent in a sealed and registered cover plainly marked "Tender for Dacca and Mymensing State Railway" and addressed to the Engineer-in-Chief, Darjeeling. It is to be distinctly understood that the Government is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender, nor will any reasons be given for the rejection of any tender.

HORACE BELL, M.I.C.E.,
Engineer-in-Chief.

Darjeeling, 27th September, 1882.

ment do not also find favour with the cultivator. Mr. Crooke states that the Martin plough is appreciated by the ryots." This news is very satisfactory to us, as we were the first to recognise the merits of the plough invented by Mr. Martin, Indigo-planter of Phaphoond in Etawah, and to bring it to the notice of the public. The Behea sugarcane mill patented by Messrs. Thomson and Mylne has proved a remarkable success. Mr. Crooke observes :—"The people are beginning to see that we have only their advantage in view, and that in particularly recognising that, as a whole native methods are probably the best that could be devised to meet the present state of things, we have no wish to force a new system upon them, but that we only desire to let them see for themselves and adopt any novelty the advantages of which they clearly appreciate. In this way alone is improvement possible, and in this way alone can we hope ultimately to break down the barrier of prejudice which has hitherto existed. There is no greater mistake than to undervalue the accumulated experience of generations in the light of which the cultivator works. His methods are of course empiric, and he can give no reason for the faith which is in him. But this does not render the results he has secured in any sense less valuable. We are still in a stage of enquiry into the native system, and until we fully understand it, it is as hopeless as it is inadvisable to attempt its reform." We commend these sensible and thoughtful observations to Mr. Buck and his supporters.

The Allahabad Board of Revenue recommend the introduction of a system of paid management of Ward's estates in the North-Western Provinces, with the object of relieving Collectors and their establishments of much of the work of detail that now falls upon them, and of ensuring greater efficiency and uniformity in administration. The system of paid management in the North-West should be similar to that in vogue in the Lower Provinces. Managers of Wards' estates should as a rule be picked members of the Subordinate Executive Service. Large estates may have each a separate manager; but for the management of all the small estates in a district one manager will be enough. The Wards Institution at Benares is likely to be abolished owing to the decision that no wards shall in future be sent from the Lower Provinces to that Institution. Boys from Bengal were the main support of the Benares Institution; and as these have been or will shortly be withdrawn, the Benares Institution can no longer be kept upon its present footing. But the question of the instruction and training of minor wards is one of very great importance, and we are glad to see that Sir Alfred Lyall recognises it fully. His Honor remarks :—"The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that officers in charge of minors and their estates interest themselves in the education and personal training of the wards, matters which in his opinion are in no degree less important than the proper management of the estates. To free a minor's estate from debt and bring it into excellent order, and to accumulate large surplus funds in cash or Government securities, will be of little use, if the minor on coming into possession has not the strength of character to resist the allurements to which youths of property are exposed, or has not acquired to some initiatory extent the business habits that will enable him to manage, or supervise the management of, the estate. His Honour therefore would wish that in future, in the abstracts of district reports, details may be furnished as to the kind of instruction that is being given to the wards, the arrangements that are being made for their education and moral training, the progress made by them in their studies, and such other information as will show that the development of the wards' personal character is watched and cared for, and that they are being prepared, so far as this may be possible, for their future position and responsibilities." We need hardly say that we concur fully in these remarks. The education of minor wards should be such as to render them fit to discharge the heavy responsibilities which will devolve upon them, when they undertake the management of their estates. The training which minor wards generally receive at the hands of European guardians and tutors fits them for the pursuit of manly games and field sports rather than for the conduct of important affairs of life; and they in consequence learn to prefer play to work. The pursuit of games and sports is doubtless a great thing; but then "life is not all beer and skittles." It is we think a mistake to place minor native wards under the guardianship and tuition of Europeans. They generally tend to Anglicize the boys. Competent native tutors should be appointed to take charge of a minor ward in all cases where their estates can afford to bear the expenditure.

THE AGRA COLLEGE.

IT was most fortunate for the cause of high education in the North-Western Provinces that the question of abolishing the Agra College was left to be dealt with by Sir George Couper's successor. On receipt of Mr. Secretary Mackenzie's letter of the 24th January last, directing the closing of the College and suggesting the transfer of its endowment funds to the Mahomedan College at Aligarh and the Muir Central College at Allahabad, the late Lieutenant Governor called from the Director of Public Instruction for a report on the questions raised therein. If Mr. Griffiths could have immediately provided for the present staff of Principal and Professors in the Agra College that institution would, in all human likelihood, have been banished, bag and baggage, from the North-West Civil List on the 1st of April 1882; and Sir George Couper would have had the satisfaction of giving effect to a long-cherished desire. The Director of Public Instruction fortunately took time to consider the matter, and this delay has proved the salvation of the Agra College. Mr. Griffiths' report was submitted on the 3rd of June—that is to say, six weeks after Sir George Couper had made over charge of his high office to Sir Alfred Lyall. The Director very properly suggested that the results of the Education Commission's enquiries and deliberations regarding College education in general might with advantage be awaited before any decision be formed with respect to the abolition or retention of the Agra College in particular. Mr. Griffith distinctly said that nothing would be saved by abolishing the College unless suitable occupation could be found elsewhere for the present staff of Professors; and that there was no vacancy in the Educational Department of the North-Western Provinces in which any one of these officers could, if the College were disestablished, be usefully and economically employed. He, however, pointed out that reduction of expenditure would soon be practicable, as Mr. Deighton, the Principal, intended to apply for two years' furlough in March next; and that as the largest item of expenditure was Mr. Deighton's salary, the savings which might then be effected would be very considerable and the expenditure on each student would be reduced to reasonable proportion. The Director recommended that at the end of the current financial year two-thirds of the endowment be made over to a strong local Committee formed on the lines of the Canning College Committee, for the economical maintenance of the College, and that the remaining one-third be devoted to strengthening vernacular schools in the Agra Division, and the normal school which supplies them teachers. Mr. Griffiths wrote :—"On no account would I recommend the diversion of any portion of this Hindu endowment to the support of a College —open indeed to Hindus but—managed by members of an antagonistic agressively proselytising faith." The Director stated in plain terms that the College could be maintained at a less cost and with at least equal efficiency and he expressed his strong opinion that the institution deserved a further trial.

When the question came up before Sir Alfred Lyall he treated it with a breadth of view which might naturally be expected from an accomplished man of letters like the present Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces. We wish we could publish *in extenso* Sir Alfred's most able and crushing reply to the Home Secretary's letter of the 24th January last, directing the closing of the Agra College and suggesting the transfer of its endowment funds

to the Mahomedan College at Aligurh and the Muir Central College at Allahabad, but we regret that the limited space at our disposal prevents our doing so. We will, however give a few extracts from this most important State paper. The Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces writes :—"That some remedy or radical change is needed is indisputable; but whether the immediate closing of the College and the distribution of the endowment funds to other colleges is the right and only course left open to Government, whether improvement is so impossible as to render abolition unavoidable, and whether the abandonment of one more out of the few colleges in these provinces will be advantageous to public instruction or the reverse, are questions which require, in Sir Alfred Lyall's judgment, to be carefully weighed and examined in all their bearings upon the present state of education in this part of India." And Sir Alfred has weighed and examined these important questions in a manner which cannot be sufficiently admired. As regards the proposed distribution of the endowment funds of the Agra College to other colleges, the Secretary to the North-West Government says : "The British Government held in 1815 that the proceeds of land granted by the Mahratta authorities for the encouragement of Vedic studies, should be devoted to General Education. But the Board, reporting in 1823, said :—'With reference to the local circumstances of the grant, we conceive that it will be proper to restrict the application of the funds to the districts in which the property lies—either Aligarh or Agra therefore becomes the fittest site for the intended foundation; the celebrity and extent of the latter as a civil station renders it in our opinion entitled to preference. We therefore recommend that the institution be established at the latter of these cities and receive the designation of the Agra College.' And in the propositions and recommendations made in the Board's report the Governor-General in Council expressed his entire concurrence. From this it may be inferred that in the appropriation of the funds of the endowment, the British authorities at the time did intend to take local considerations into account; and Sir Alfred Lyall respectfully argue that in so doing they acted in accordance with the ordinary custom and practice regulating endowments in most countries. At all events, the closing of the college, and the partition of the endowment funds among other institutions, involve the cancelment of an arrangement made nearly sixty years ago after mature deliberation, and in accordance with what were then thought to be, and still appear to be, the natural and not unreasonable prepossessions of the people of Agra and its vicinity. It is to be remembered, moreover, that all the reasons, except perhaps one, which commended Agra, in 1823, to the Government as the proper place of establishing the College are still in existence. It is no longer the seat of Government in these provinces. But next to Benares, it is the second city in the North-Western Provinces in population; and its historical associations, its contiguity to Native States, and the number and facility of its railway communications with different parts of the country, must always uphold its actual and relative importance among the cities of Upper India; while the removal of the Administrative head-quarters is no drawback to the town's advantages as a place for education. Secondly, it is true that Aligarh is within easy distance of Agra and that the argument from the locality of the endowment applies to both places. But there is reason to apprehend that the transfer of a part of their endowments to the Mahomedan College at Aligur as is suggested in your letter, may, rightly or wrongly, produce among the Native community some disquietude in regard to the strict maintenance of the principle of unsectarian liberality upon which the Agra College was established. The letters from the Commissioner and the Collector of Agra contain distinct reference to a feeling of this kind not only among the Hindus but even among the Mahomedans. For the founders of the Aligarh College Sir Alfred Lyall entertains much respect; and he entirely appreciates the rare public spirit, energy and perseverance manifested by them in originating and carrying out their enterprise. But public opinion regarding this institution is necessarily

influenced by knowledge of the views and tenets of those who established and who manage it; and there appears to be ample evidence that the transfer of a part of the Agra endowment funds to the Aligarh College will, from this point of view, be exposed to misconstruction. Sir Alfred Lyall has taken some pains to obtain trustworthy information upon this subject, and he considers himself bound to say that any scheme for removing the College and distributing the endowment is likely to be more hindered than helped by connecting it with a proposal to transfer the endowment funds to the institution at Aligarh." It is needless to say that every intelligent and unprejudiced person will subscribe to every word in the extract we have made.

In the second place, Sir Alfred Lyall proves to demonstration that the present expenditure on State Colleges in his satrapy is not disproportionately large, and that the abolition of the Agra College will seriously injure the cause of high education in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. He points out that the number of under-graduates in attendance at the three Government and two aided Colleges in the United Provinces at the end of 1880-81 was 319 as compared with 136 University students in 1871. But he observes that, in spite of this increase, it is manifest that, out of a population of 44 millions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the number of those who are receiving higher education at the Colleges is still remarkably and undesirably low, altogether disproportionate to the general population and to the number of those who are at school. The Government contribution to the State Colleges is Rs. 1,01,808, which is only 8·60 per cent. of total Government grant for education in the United Provinces. This percentage does not seem to Sir Alfred Lyall to absorb an extravagrant share of the funds devoted by Government to public instruction. He regrets that the people at large still show little interest in superior education, and remarks that the North-Western Provinces are in this respect still far behind Bengal. We would implore Sir Alfred Lyall to enquire why his satrapy should be behind Bengal in the matter of high education. The causes of the backward state of University education in the Upper Provinces we have over and over again explained in these columns. Well does Sir Alfred Lyall say "that the wants of the North-Western Provinces are becoming more urgent and that the Province is in the danger of falling behind neighbouring provinces in the march of education to the moral and material detriment of its inhabitants, whose places in the professions and services and in industrial pursuits requiring skill and an educated intelligence may be pre-occupied by the more highly trained candidates from other parts." He proceeds :— "The abolition, therefore, of any Colleges on the ground that its students can be accommodated elsewhere, would be a step retrograde in itself, opposed to the former views and proceedings of the Government and a substantial discouragement to the further extension and progress of high education. For it is a fact attested by the experience of the Department of Public Instruction that students in any number cannot and will not go from distant parts of the provinces to attend College, so that the abolition of a College means the exclusion, more or less complete, of the people of a city, its own district and neighbouring districts from the advantages of a University education." Again :—The actual cost to the State of the University education given at Agra is very considerably less than at either of the other Government Colleges in these provinces, unless indeed it be argued that the Agra College endowment funds are Government funds, and that being at the disposal of Government, they might be applied to reduce the amount of public funds expended on other Colleges. * * * The Director states that during 1881-82 the rate of expenditure per student has fallen to Rs. 1282, of which Rs. 300 only is supplied from public funds; and he anticipates that by a further reduction to be effected next year, the average cost per student will be brought down to that of the Allahabad College. The average cost would be still further lowered were the students at Agra to increase. * * * The mere fact that with an area and population not less than those from which approximately the Benares and Allahabad Colleges draw their increasing number of students, the Agra College attracts so comparatively small a number of students is one which should be susceptible of precise explanation, and possibly of remedy, but of which no reasonable explanation has been given" For these reasons, Sir Alfred Lyall strongly protested against the proposal to close the Agra College without giving it a further trial, and he recommended that the period of trial be fixed at two years from the end of the present financial year. He, accordingly, requested the Government of India to postpone decision upon the question of closing the College and to permit its retention, on a probationary footing, till March 1885, on the understanding that in the interval by reducing expenditure and enforcing economy, and by making known to the people the necessity of availing themselves of the education which the College provides if they desire its maintenance, every effort will be made to bring it up to a standard that may warrant the Government in maintaining a separate College at Agra. As we have already exceeded the limits assigned to a single article we will notice the decision of the Supreme Government in our next.

THE RELIGIOUS OUTRAGE AT CUTTACK.

THERE seems to be great excitement in the capital of Orissa in connection with the religious outrage case, which we lately noticed in these columns on the strength of a telegram published in the *Englishman*. We have since received copies of the judgment of the Joint-Magistrate and of the petition of certain Hindu residents of Cuttack to the Divisional Commissioner. We give below the judgment of the Joint-Magistrate :

Government *vs*. Shamsunder Dutt and Mr. Dundun, Police Inspectors and 2 others (Sections 295 and 297 P. C.) The four accused have been charged by Narain Das a servant of Gopaljee Matha with committing offences under secs. 295 and 297 P. C. in the Math on the night of 27th August. Of the 4 accused Shamsunder Dutt a Hindoo Police Inspector, Kanti Chunder Roy a Brahmin Police Head Clerk, Dundun a European (Christian) Police Inspector, and Banchanidhi Patnaik a native Christian 2nd Police Clerk, 7 witnesses besides complainant have been examined by the Prosecution, at the close of which the Court heard the counsel on both sides. As to Kanti Chandra, the Court considers there is absolutely no reliable evidence against him. He has been examined and his statement agrees wonderfully with the bulk of the evidence for the Prosecution. It is admitted the east Varanda of the "Jhulanghur" may be entered in shoes, while no one pretends to have seen him with shoes on, while in the Thakur Augina (marked Y in the plan ex. A.) Only complainant and one witness Ramsunker Roy say he entered the Jhulanghur, and Court does not for a moment believe this complainant's evidence as will appear further on, which is deserving of grave suspicion, while Ramsunker was in the west Augina when he pretends he saw the accused enter by the east door, there being apparently a crowd in the room. This accused Kanti Chandra Roy is very plausibly said by the defence to have been charged in this case merely to prevent his being a witness for the other 3 accused. With regard to sec. 295 P. C. *prima facie* proof. It is pretended the room was defiled by the accused persons. There is not particle of evidence that it was purified again before the ceremony was continued, in fact it is quite clear nothing of the sort was done, but that the *Tamasa* went on and even accused No. 1 himself shortly returned to witness it. The Court asked the Prosecution Muktar addressing it whether when a place of worship is defiled persons who remain in it or enter it until purified are also defiled and he emphatically and deliberately answered yes. It remains to be seen if any offence has been satisfactorily established against any of the 3 accused under sec. 297 P. C. To commence with Shamsunder Inspector, who is a Hindoo. Of course he could enter the Muth as freely as any other Hindoo, and could not be guilty of trespass. Is there any proof that he caused disturbance to the assembly in the Jhulanghur? On this point there is a glaring inconsistence in the statement of different witnesses for the Prosecution. The Complainant and Suk Lal, said to be a Darwan of the Matb, say there was a confusion and so does Ramsunker Roy, but this is flatly contradictory to what other eye-witnesses say, and the latter were the very persons who remonstrated with accused No. 1. The Court leaves out of the question anything that may have happened in the 2 Auginas at the north (marked X in the Plan) for it is admitted Christians and Mussalmans may go there, so it is evident no Hindoo ceremonies were going on there. This accused has also been examined, and his lengthy statement agrees largely with the drift of the evidence of several eye-witnesses for the prosecution. He denies having entered the Julanghur in shoes, and it is not proved by any means to the court's satisfaction that he did so, for Kistamohun Patnaik and Banimadhub Banerjee did not see his shoes and the Mallee Paystab Rana does not mention them. It is true Poorna Chundra says accused took off his shoes at his (witnesses' remonstrance) but not a single witness confirms the statement, nor yet another one by the same person that accused gave him a nosegy. Suk Lal declares he told accused to leave his shoes outside but he refused. This is hardly consistent with the evidence that accused quietly left the room with his companion when remonstrated with by Beny Babu &c. It is noticeable that while complainant was telling his own tale he did not mention shoes at all but said that the accused persons acted wrongly in sitting on a *Bench* when even a Raja would not get a seat and it was only when especially questioned by his Muktar that complainant alluded to shoes. That accused did not really disturb the assembly seems probable if not certain from the fact that he was in the room some time. Complainant himself in his complaint says half an hour at the end of which he went out quietly and the ceremony did not cease. Accused No. 1 is discharged as also is Kanti Chandra Rai under Sec. 215 C. P. C.

The case of the other 2 accused is somewhat different in that they are not Hindus but Christians and they differ from each other in being a European and native respectively. Apparently they could be guilty of trespass in the sacred part of the Math, but under Sec. 297 P. C. intention or knowledge is essential besides mere trespass. There is *prima facie* reason to suppose they did not with any intention bad or good but merely from curiousity, while the evidence adduced in no way proves they had any bad intention, For though complainant in his petition states that he and his Gomasta and some *Bhadralok* forbade all the accused to enter in their shoes the Gomasta has not been examined and there are such discrepancies in the evidence for prosecution that the Court cannot believe without considerable doubt that any of the accused entered without permission. Complainant's deposition differs from most of the other on several points and the Court is very doubtful whether he saw really half as much of the occurrence as he pretends. Thus he says he did not see any chair though several witnesses and the defence state that Mr. Dundun sat on a chair. Again this man says all the accused but Kanti Chandra sat on the bench and 2 Musulman constables besides, but this differs from what other witnesses have stated. Complainant admits he cooks for Thakur and the Courts strongly suspects he was engaged in cooking during most of the occurrence. The only alternative theory is that he has wilfully falsified matters. It is very important to ask whence came the chair and bench, if even a Rajah may not have a seat in the room. Complainant says the bench was put as a barrier in a front of a mirror which may be true but seems highly doubtful. Accused No. 1 says the bench was brought in from the Varanda expressly for their benefit and, when it is proved that a chair also appeared from somewhere. Complainant cannot say from where, and was sat upon by Dundun accused for a considerable space of time, it seems not all unlikely that both the seats were preferred to the three accused and accepted. It is proved that they sat at the opposite end of the room from where the Jhulan Thakur was and it is not pretended that the 2 accused made the least disturbance in the room. Shamsunder states that on seeing him the dancing boys left the other end of the room and danced in front of him and his companions, which if proved would show that the dancer at least had no idea of the accused persons being intruders. There is no positive evidence to confirm this but it is made very probable to the Court's mind by the negative evidence of Poorna Chandra that accused No. 1's statement is true. This witness when asked in what part of the room the dancing was while the accused were present, said he could not exactly say but he added spontaneously "it was not in the centre before the accused." As already remarked it is proved to the Court's satisfaction that directly accused No. 1 was told the presence of a Saheb and a Christian was objectionable the 2 accused quietly left the room with him. It appears therefore that these 2 accused neither committed trespass with guilty intentions or knowledge nor disturbed the persons assembled. It is noteworthy that at the occurrence *Amlas* seems to have taken a much more prominent part towards the ac-

cused than the religious authorities of the Math and again there are several *Amlas* amongst the witnesses for the prosecution but a strange lack of priests or religious teachers. It has come before the Court's notice on previous occasions both in its judicial and executive capacity that the accused Hindoo Inspector is detested by a large circle of enemies. While considering the present case not even *prima facie* proved against any one of the 4 accused persons, the Court under all the circumstances doubts whether the charge would ever have been brought against the other 3, had not accused No. 1, been with them. Mr. Dundun and Banchanidhi are both discharged under sec. 215 C. P. C.

N. B.—Several Hindoo Muktears have conducted the prosecution, while Mr. Wilkins, Barrister, has appeared for 3 accused and Baboo Joggeshur Chunder, Vakeel for Kanti Chaudra accused.

Sd. G. E. MANISTY,
The 8th Sept., 1882. Offg. Joint-Magistrate.

The facts set forth in the petition do not, however, quite correspond with those found by the Joint-Magistrate. We subjoin the following extract from the petition:

On the 3rd April last while the religious procession of our Deity Raghunath Jea was proceeding on *Ramnavami* festival to meet on its way with the Police Inspector Shamsunder Dutt, who not finding a Pass with the procession insulted the party, struck one of them with a stick and broke one *Mreedong* (a musical instrument) and not being content with this he brought a case against the Jamadar of the deity under Section 32 of the P. Act and the Joint-Magistrate fined him Rs. 3. At the same time complaints of his maltreatment were made to the Magistrate, but the Joint-Magistrate, to whom all the cases were made over, fined Shamsunder in the sum of one rupee only on the charge of assault and dismissed the complaint of mischief. This nominal punishment had no effect on him and he again annoyed a religious assembly on the 27th ultimo, and committed offences under sections 295 and 297 I.P.C., the facts of which are as follows.

On that day while the Jhulan Jatra was going on in the famous temple or Muth of Gopal Jea, another principal Deity of ours, he (Shamsunder Dutt) entered the Jhulan house with his shoes and accompanied by Mr. Dundun, European Inspector, Banchanidhi Mahanty (native Christian) 2nd clerk and Kanti Baboo, Head Clerk, Police office, notwithstanding remonstrances made by Naran Das, a member and Suk Lall, a door guard of the Muth, took their seats on the benches and chairs in front of the gate and snatched away garlands of flowers from the Malies (gardeners) and put around their necks. All the Hindus, some of whom were respectable gentlemen present at the festival got much wounded, whereupon Baboo Poorna Chunder Roy Chowdhry the Treasurer, and other gentlemen, spoke and pressed them to go out of the Muth. They then went outside but Shamsunder got very much angry and demanded Pass for holding Jatra at night time and having been answered in the negative, he told to stop the Jatra and picked up a quarrel with certain gentlemen present there. Babus Poorno Chunder Roy Chowdry and Banymadhub Banerjee told the Inspector that the Jatra in the inside of a house did not require any Pass and that his outrageous conduct should be brought to the notice of the Magistrate. Then the Inspector ceased from threatening and the Police party dispersed.

Where the facts are at issue it is not for us outsiders to say which version is correct. But we have abundant evidence to shew that there is a strong feeling among the Hindu community of Cuttack on the subject. We have every confidence in the impartial judgment of the Commissioner. We hope he will make a sifting enquiry into the case and do justice to all parties concerned.

INDIGO IN BEHAR.

THERE is an Indigo Planters' Association in Behar, which has already effected some reform in the system of Indigo cultivation in that province, and which promises to do much. A correspondent has sent us a copy of the circular purporting to be issued by Mr. Hudson, Secretary to the Association, proposing a scheme of protection of the Indigo concerns. We give below the circular with the Rules proposed for the Dehat Protection League:

BEHAR INDIGO PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.
Muzaffarpur.

To,—The Indigo Proprietors of North Behar.

Gentlemen,—It is necessary to prevent encroachment on established factory *dehats* by interlopers, and no time should be lost, as should the present price of Indigo prevail for another year or two, and the new Rent Bill become law, many—Natives as well as Europeans—who are just now wavering, will most certainly build factories in the recognized *dehats* of others.

I have been plainly told of such intentions in several instances. I am led to believe that the new Rent Bill will become law for Behar within the next official year, and once it comes into force, a *malik* or *thikadar* will have no hold whatever over rayats as to the disposal of their lands, and any outsider may outbid a planter for land and labour in his own *thika* villages, more especially as the latter is generally already saddled with a heavy outlay in *Paishgis* at low interest, and yearly losses on collections. I should say an outsider would generally be able to give Rs. 5 per Bigha more to rayats for Indigo cultivation than the planter *thikadar*.

Lest Officials should say we are abusing the power given us by combination, for the objects of The Planters Association, it is proposed that a distinct organization should be formed, and its members should bind themselves to protect the general interest, by engaging to subscribe (up to a fixed amount) any Funds required to prevent encroachment on a member's *dehat*.

The knowledge that a large sum can be called up in this way if required, will, it is believed be in many cases sufficient to deter many adventurers, who at this moment are contemplating either actually building in a planters' *dehat*, or taking sub-leases (kurtauli pattas) from his rayats (as is the new custom) with the object of forcing him to buy them off.

I am forwarding herewith a crude outline of my proposition for the formation of a *dehat* Protection League, and would be glad to receive an outline of a better scheme, or any suggestions that may occur to Proprietors or Managers interested in the question, so that I might place the same before a meeting here next October.

Several of the largest Proprietors of North Behar have signified to me their approval of a scheme, such as I now propose, and I would ask gentlemen who wish to give it their support to communicate with their Agents and Managers with as little delay as possible.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
W. B. HUDSON,
Secretary B. I. P. Association.

Dehat Protection League.
PROPOSED RULES.

1. That this Association be called the "Dehat Protection League."
2. That its objects be the protection of recognized Factory *Dehats* by all lawful means.
3. That the business of the League be conducted by a President and Committee of six Members to be elected annually by the Members of the League.
4. Any vacancy in the Committee occuring during the year to be filled up by the Committee.
5. That when, in the opinion of the Committee, an occasion arises for the application of the Funds of the League, the Chairman should call on each Concern for its quota of the sum required.
6. Each Member pledges himself to pay such call within 15 days of its being made by the Chairman, and should he fail to do so, he will be liable to double the amount of such call.
7. Such call not to exceed one rupee for each Bigha of Indigo cultivation.
8. The name of each Concern joining the League to be enrolled at the written request of its present Proprietor or Manager.
9. The Proprietor of each Concern before its being enrolled to furnish particular of what is considered its *Dehat* for registration by the Chairman.
10. Any dispute between Concerns as to boundaries, to be settled for the purposes of the League by the decision of the Committee.
11. Each District to form a separate branch of the League, and all Funds subscribed to be applied exclusively to the protection of the *Dehat* of Concerns situated within such District.
12. Any petty current expenses sanctioned by the Committee to be estimated for each year, and a call made by the Chairman for the amount of each Concern's quota, in proportion to the area of its Indigo cultivation.

We do not clearly understand the drift of the scheme. Are we to understand that indigo cultivation cannot be carried on the free commercial principle, that it needs protection as its safe guard? Such an avowal would be fatal to any trade or callingcarried on in the open daylight of competition. We leave it to Mr. Hudson to explain why he should take objection to healthy competition.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.

ON the 19th July last Mr. Stansfeld introduced a Bill in the House of Commons for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act in England. Before the order for the second reading of this Bill was read, Sir H. D. Wolff rose to a point of order, and observed that "on a former occasion the right hon. gentleman in the chair had decided that the motion for the second reading of a Bill could not be debated in consequence of the Bill not having been printed. As the Bill now before the House had not been printed, he wishes to know whether it was competent to the House to debate its second reading. The Speaker said, I may have said that it was unusual to proceed with a Bill which had not been printed, but I should not have said the House could not proceed with that Bill if it thought proper to do so." Then followed the following conversations:

Mr. Callan drew attention to the fact that strangers were present in that portion of the House usually occupied by ladies, and he suggested that strangers should withdraw.

The Speaker: An hon. member asks me whether the order to exclude strangers will have the effect of excluding ladies from the gallery. I am bound to say it will not.

Mr. Callan: For the purpose of taking a division on the question I beg to state that I "spy strangers"

The Speaker: I think it important to observe that the effect of this motion being carried would be to exclude reporters but not ladies from the galleries.

Mr. Callan said that in that case he trusted that those who occupied the ladies' galleries would take the hint.

The House then divided on the question, "That strangers be ordered to withdraw," when there appeared.

For the motion	...	...	...	36
Against it ...	...	...	...	173
			Majority against	137

The motion was therefore negatived.

It would appear from the division list given that 12 Liberals, 16 Conservatives, and 10 Home Rulers voted for the motion "that strangers be ordered to withdraw," and 142 Liberals, 25 Conservatives, and 8 Home Rulers voted against it. Amongst those who voted in favour of the motion there were only 4 Repealers, and amongst the "Noes" there were 80 Repealers. Not a single member of the Cabinet or Government official voted for the motion, and that Mr. Gladstone, Lord Hartington, Sir W. V. Harcourt, Mr. Dodson, Mr. Fawcett, and Mr. Childers voted against it; as did also 6 other officials who do not hold seats in the Cabinet. It is perhaps worthy of note that amongst those who voted against the motion there were 35 M. P.'s who have either voted, or in some way declared themselves in favour of the Acts. After the vote was taken the Speaker remarked:

The Speaker: Some reference having been made to the presence of ladies, I think it right to state that in 1876 when a similar order of the day was before the House, my attention was called to the presence of ladies and I used these words: "I may state for the information of the House that there are two galleries of the House appropriated for the use of ladies. One of these is under my control, and having regard to the subject-matter of the first order of the day I have directed that gallery to be closed. With regard to the other gallery, as the House is aware, it is available for the use of the friends of members, under the order of members, in the usual manner. I have not felt myself at liberty to close that gallery, but I have desired the messenger in attendance to inform all ladies who may present themselves there of the nature of the subject about to be discussed. If they think proper to insist on admittance I do not feel at liberty, without the authority of the House to exclude them." I may state that upon this occasion I have given similar instructions to the Serjeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Stansfeld then moved the second reading of the Bill. He regretted that the Bill had not been printed, but he remarked, "the Bill itself, as hon. members know perfectly well, is one simply for the absolute repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. It raises a question of principle, and as far as I am concerned, and as far as those who advocate it are concerned, we have not felt that our functions went further than to propound the principle of the Repeal of the existing legislation, leaving it to the responsible Government of the time to make what proposals they might think necessary to meet the exigencies of the case." He then entered into the history of legislation on the subject. He said: "The Acts in question were passed in the years 1866 and 1869, and in 1870-71 a Royal Commission sat upon them and reported unfavourably to the continuance of the existing Acts. Again: a period of agitation came up, and the subject was discussed throughout the country. The Committee which is still sitting was appointed during the Government of the late Lord Beaconsfield, was re-appointed on the assembly of the present Parliament and has sat up to this day; and during that period all those who are so deeply interested in and conversant with this subject both in the House and out of it, have, to a certain extent, felt themselves bound and restrained in their action; and, therefore, I think it right to say that there will be very considerable disappointment and a strong feeling excited in their minds, when they find that there is to be no action upon the report of the Committee in the present session of Parliament." Mr. Stansfeld explained that he was not opposed to sanitary measures for the curing of the disease. But Mr. Stansfeld protested against the compulsory provision of the law. He remarked:

But there is one principle in these Acts to which we who are opposed to them are irreconcilably opposed; and it is my duty to state to the House that we act from so strong a conviction of absolute duty that we cannot conceive any circumstances under which we should feel justified in relinquishing our opposition to this legislation. This statement I make in no spirit of threat.

I think it right as a matter of honesty to say so much to the House. The House knows from the past history of other questions andmovements thatwhen you find in this country a large number of serious, earnest, moral and high-minded men and women absolutely convinced of the moral iniquity of a given legislation, no parliamentary or other defeats can succeed in extinguishing their convictions, their self-scarifice and their zeal in the direction of what they believe to be right. And therefore I think this House and the Government ought to take this into account that unless in some way or other the evil principle, to which I have referred and to which these earnest people object, can be removed from this legislation, this legislation can have no peace until it is repealed. What is the objectionable principle? It is the principle of compulsion; applied in this way—the compulsory registration and the compulsory examination of women of a certain class, for the purpose of ascertaining if they are physically fit for the life which they lead, and with the view of compulsorily committing them to and detaining them in hospitals, if they are found to be diseased, until such time as they are cured. Well, I say in the simplest possible language to the members of this House that this is a proposition of law which is abhorrent to our notions of justice and of morality and I will add of religion itself, and it would be impossible for me, as long as I remain a member of this House, or even if I were not a member of this House—as long as I live and breathe—to refrain from fulfilling what I should feel to be the duty incumbent upon me of opposing a principle imported into our legislation, inconsistent with the very basis of morality, and with the religion which we profess. Now that is the principle which must be got rid of, and which cannot be got rid of by any more amendment of these laws. It is supposed that the ideal benefits which people imagine (as I believe without foundation) to flow from this legislation could not be obtained without the importation of this principle of compulsory legislation. I won't discuss that point now; that would be to go into the evidence which the Committee received this session and I am not entitled to take that course, but I will express my conviction that whatever ideal benefits may be supposed to have followed from the operation of these Acts, greater benefit to the country at large may easily be secured by a system not involving compulsion, and not open to the moral objections which I now represent to-day.

Mr. Stansfeld thus concluded:

Well, Sir, it is known, and hon. members know, that these Acts could not be extended to the country at large, that the country would not stand it, and that this House could not pass the measure; and that this House knows, or to ought to know, that if these Acts were to be brought forward now for the first time, they could not be passed. They were passed in former days almost in silence, with great rapidity; I may say they were "lobbied" through the House; but now that public opinion is awakened upon this subject, I say fearlessly, without the slightest fear of rational contradiction, that it would be impossible now for this or any Government to pass these Acts. That is the position in which we are placed. If the Acts are maintained they must be extended; but they cannot be extended, and therefore they must be repealed. But the House is perfectly familiar with the difficulties, almost amounting to impossibilities, of a private member seeking to enact or get any legislation repealed; and the argument therefore to Her Majesty's Government is, and I hope my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War when he speaks will agree with me—that when this Committee has reported, the Government will have to acknowledge some special responsibility upon them to get us out of this deadlock. I do not think that when that time comes, my right hon, friend, if he has to deal with the question, will be in any insuperable difficulty. As far as I am concerned my conviction is that these Acts are the greatest hygienic imposture we have ever known. I believe they have done no hygeinic good, and at the proper time I shall hope to demonstrate that to the minds of hon. members, who, if I may say so, seem to require enlightenment upon this subject. But however that may be, whatever modicum of benefit, hygienic or in respect of order may be believed to have resulted from these Acts, what I do point out to the House and the Government is this, that precisely the same results are to be found in parts of the country, towns and cities, where these Acts do not apply; and I cite the well-known case of the city of Glasgow, where all the benefits supposed to have been attributable (I think wrongly) to the Acts themselves, have been obtained without any compulsory system at all. I have only one or two words more to say to the Government and to my right hon. friend. I have spoken of the general responsibility of the Government in this matter, but there are also personal responsibilities to which perhaps I may without offence refer. I will not read the list of right hon, and hon. gentlemen who have year after year voted for the repeal of the Acts, but will merely remark that I do not think they can have turned their backs on the opinions which they entertained formerly on this subject. I interpret the votes given by the Prime Minister and my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War, as nothing else than an admission that "we cannot stand where we are," and that interpretation I think I am entitled to put upon them. Well then, I hope these obligations will be recognised, and I address a further argument to the Prime Minister. During all this period of delay, while many good people have become sick, but not faint at heart from disappointment and from hope deferred, the hope so long deferred has largely centred upon him. Those I refer to have felt, and I think they have rightly felt that with my right hon. friend the question of morals is ever present; they know his view and that of another right hon. friend of mine, unhappily no longer a member of this administration that "the moral law ought to be applied to the acts of nations as well as to the actions of individuals;" and I must say to him that they at least can never admit any doubt or question as to the "application of that law." Sir, I will go no further upon this occasion; but I ask of the Government in moving the "previous question," to give what assurance they may feel justified in giving that they accept these responsibilities and will deal with this question with the least possible delay.

Mr. Childers moved the "previous question" on the ground that the report of the Committee was not ready to be laid before the House. Sir Stafford Northcote supported the motion, which was put and carried.

Although the second reading of the Bill was not allowed, the tone of the debate seems to have been encouraging. The Government, if we understand aright the attitude of the War Minister, is prepared to take some steps in advance after the report of the Committee is submitted.

THE NEW COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.

(FROM OUR BOMBAY CORRESPONDENT.)

THE RULES for the filling up of vacancies in the clerical establishments of the Secretariat Offices of the Government of India, have not created half the interest I expected they would.

Aside from the fact, that the scheme as given to the public by the Government of India is too complicated, and theoretical for practical working, there seems to exist an idea in the minds of many of the clerks concerned, that like many Resolutions of a similar kind issued in the interest of the higher grades of Uncovenanted officers, this particular one will be liable to alterations hereafter when men have been admitted to the service under its provisions that may as seriously affect their prospects as it has affected the prospects of their Uncovenanted officers.

For my part I think they are mistaken.

The resolutions they refer to were issued under the heavy pressure of the powerful body of Covenanted officers whose promotion was blocked in the regular service and who not unnaturally demanded some of the well paid posts that were falling to the share of their Uncovenanted bretheren. No such cause will mar the continued working of a scheme for the benefit of ministerial officers, and when it is remembered that the scale of salaries is so low that they offer very little inducement to the higher orders to compete for the places offered it would that clerks have no sufficient grounds for thinking the privileges they will secure in open competition will ever be rescinded. At the same the present scheme is a little complicated and moreover it appears to threaten the interests of the present Government clerks and superintendents.

Few of the latter receive as pay over rupees two hundred a month, but many of them are most able men doing the work of superintendents, but whose names appear on the establishment lists merely as clerks.

These men being in what His Excellency in his resolution terms the lower division will have to pass the higher standard examination or relinquish their positions in favour of the successful competition wallahs, who whilst doubtless their superiors in a knowledge of the scholastic subjects prescribed for the examination are their inferiors in the practical knowledge of official work so utterly too too essential in a good superintendent.

The drawback to the present method of recruiting the service and promoting its members is most correctly noted by His Excellency in the second para of his resolution. He says—

"The recognised difficulty in all Government offices is to obtain fit men for the superior duties, such as those of drafting, precis writing, preparing statistical returns and the like. The pay provided for the superior appointments is in itself sufficient to give adequate remuneration for the proper performance of duties of this class; but the complaint is general that the standard of work done is at present often very inferior. It has been too much the rule to promote men from the lower grades as a matter of course; and as no test of qualification is applied either on admission to those lower grades, or on advancement beyond them, promotion has come to depend at least as much on seniority and the absence of misconduct as upon any merit or positive fitness for superior duty."

I believe that for some years past very few clerks have been admitted into the offices attached to the Government of India Secretariat without first passing a test examination in dictation, composition, and arithmetic, and therefore His Excellency appears to have been somewhat misinformed, but he is correct in saying that when once a clerk gets into an office his promotion depends more on seniority and the favouritism of his superior officers than on his merits and abilities, but it is an error to suppose that this fault can only be remedied by the scheme set forth in the Resolution.

The simpler and more acceptable way I think would have been to have recruited the service by local or provincial competitive examinations, successful competitors being permitted to choose the branch they liked best.

The service together with the regular members of the office should then be called upon to compete for the vacancies occurring in each half year, and if his knowledge of departmental work and office duty was found to be superior to that possessed by others he should be promoted in accordance with the position he held in the list of successful candidates.

To illustrate my meaning we will suppose that a young man Gopal Das is successful in an open competitive examination and elects to serve in an office, the establishment of which is divided into four classes, each containing twenty-five men superintended by eight superintendents of departments. He joins his office on the first of January, and during his noviciate on the pay of the lowest class, five casualties occur.

These *pro tem* may be filled up by the head of the office and the vacant places supplied if necessary from the list of competition-wallahs. At the half yearly examination which should be held on a Saturday—the whole office is examined by its head in departmental subjects with the result that Gopal Das shews himself so superior to his classmates as to warrant his promotion to one of the vacancies in a higher class.

For superintendentships there should be a special examination of the first class clerks. The duties that these officers are called upon to perform are of a peculiar nature involving a perfect familiarity with the history, the details and the records of the special branch over which they are to preside, and if as is proposed under the Resolution experience in these important matters is to be suborned to a scholastic acquaintance with the subjects for examination the result will be deplorable.

Experienced superintendents are the main-stay of an office, and if they are to be snperseded by inexperienced young men fresh from college who cannot and will not command the respect of their clerks, the latter state of affairs will be worse than the former.

It is a pity that His Excellency before resolving on a most important and interesting reform, did not consult the men who really manage his offices, for the heads of offices though clever and able men in their way, know little or nothing of the feelings or requirements of those who serve under them.

However the Resolution despite its defects is a step in the right direction, and doubtless when its faults are practically evidenced it will be corrected.

I think however the thanks of the community are due to His Excellency for his praiseworthy action in attempting to grapple with a social evil that has for many years been a bitter pill to Government clerks; namely the non-survival of the fittest. It is an undoubted fact that many of the clerks in Government offices are not worth their salt, whilst bright, intelligent, educated young men struggle in vain for promotion.

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to record the death of Sir David Wedderburn, who lately retired from Parliamentary life. Sir David was a staunch friend of India, and was always ready to advocate her cause both in and out of Parliament. India sustains a severe loss by the death of such a sincere and zealous friend.

THE CHAIRMAN of the Calcutta Corporation has issued the following notice to the candidates for election:

স্বর্ণসিন্দুর মকরধ্বজ।

"অনুপান বিশেষণ করোতি বিবিধ গুণান,"

রক্ত পরিষ্কার, ধাতুপুষ্ট, এবং বলবৃদ্ধি জন্য আর্য্য চিকিৎসা শাস্ত্রে এরূপ মহোপকারী ঔষধ আর নাই।

মূল্য ১ তোলা ২০, কুড়ি টাকা, এবং ৪ সপ্তাহের সেবনোপযোগী ৩, তিনটাকা,

অকৃত্রিম মকরধ্বজ গ্রহনেচ্ছু মহোদয়গণ নিম্নলিখিত স্থানে আমার নিকট অনুসন্ধান করিবেন।

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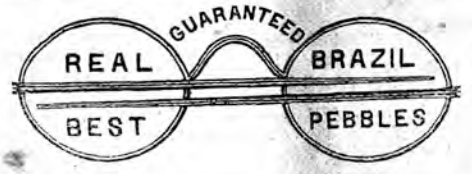

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